Hafa Adai!

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Kilili: Bill will strengthen OSHA, protect workers. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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FINAL DAY OF EXERCISE
U.S Marines and French soldiers train together during the final exercise for Jeanne D' Arc 2017. This exercise gave an opportunity for American, French, and Japanese military forces to train together and work with partner nations while sharing tactics, strengthening coordination and communication and increasing interoperability. GUNNERY SGT. JUSTIN PARK

See story on Page 4

IPI gets conditional permit

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has granted Imperial Pacific International (CNM) LLC a conditional certificate of occupancy, giving the multibillion-dollar conglomerate the go-signal to open its casino on Saipan.

DPW's Building Safety Code Division finally released the conditional certificate after several inspections to make sure the facility is not dangerous or poses a hazard when people occupy it.

IPI officials can't be reached for comment but they are expected to meet in order to finalize the much-anticipated partial opening of the casino component of Imperial Pacific Resort.

Best Sunshine Live, the temporary live training casino at T Galleria, is also expected to stop operations once the IPI casino opens.

The offices of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and casino (basement and levels 1 and 2), Tapochau Bar, grand lobby, and the casino floor are the occupied areas that are allowed.

The allowed areas can hold a total load of more than 6,100 people. Sprinkler systems were also installed

See IPI on Page 4

$500K bail for suspected 'ice' supplier

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Ex-masseuse allegedly sold, yielded 100 grams of meth worth $50,000**

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Tuesday an alleged big-time distributor of methamphetamine who allegedly sold and yielded 100 grams of "ice" worth between $40,000 and $50,000 during "buy-walk operations" on Saipan.

Biyu Hu, 35, a female but also known as Brother, was arrested in the parking lot of a store in Dandan at 11:01am. She faces charges of trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance

At a hearing yesterday, her bail was increased from the original $200,000 to $500,000. Preliminary hearing will be on May 26 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark is Hu's lawyer. Assis-

See $500K on Page 4

'No foul play behind death on Tinian'

No foul play was found behind the death of a man at the West Field on Tinian last Friday, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero yesterday.

Guerrero said Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola, did an autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center and determined it was an overdose case.

Guerrero said they are waiting for a toxicology report.

The commissioner said he has no details about the incident as the case agent is Tinian DPS and that the victim was only brought to CHC for an autopsy.

Tinian DPS director Juan Santos said he could not release information

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A handler of big cats weeps as the beasts lope out of the ring for the last time.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

PINNING CEREMONY

RGA DESIGNS

Nursing students of the Northern Marianas College recently held their pinning and lamp-lighting ceremony, which signifies the completion of their initial nursing education, at Saipan World Resort. The students will be receiving their associate degrees in nursing at NMC's commencement exercise this Saturday, May 20, 2017. The nursing students are joined by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, far left, and NMC dean of Academics Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen, far right.

Balloon
Fun Run, Walk & Roll
Women's Health Month 2017
Your health at every age.
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CNMI PSS attains low risk auditee status

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System has been granted a low-risk auditee status by its auditor, providing a high level of confidence that PSS has good financial management.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh pointed out that many other U.S. insular areas are having trouble attaining that status.

The federal government must first confirm the determination, made by the PSS auditor Burger, Comer, and Magliari LLC.

Thornburgh said that, in order to be granted a low-risk auditee status, the auditor must first evaluate the stability of PSS, including having a clean opinion on financial statements as well as "no questioned costs" for three consecutive years.

"Once you do this, you may obtain a low risk auditee status," said Thornburgh.

The status also implies that PSS would follow federal program requirements.

According to Thornburgh, the final audit would be posted on the PSS website. Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero must first sign the audit before presenting it to the U.S. Department of Education for confirmation before May 31, 2017.

"Fieldwork [for the audit] started last November and finished last April," said Thornburgh, mentioning that the audit should be expected soon.

"We are the only one that has this distinction," he added.

At a recent meeting, BOE chair Marylou Ada said the CNMI has been struggling to attain this status since 2004 and that there were six findings in the 2016 audit of PSS.

"We really only have six findings with no questionable costs. It is good, all [the findings] are documentations that were not filed and was rendered as a finding," Ada told the board members.

Ada followed with a congratulatory remark to the management and hopes the findings of the audit will be resolved soon.

"It is a great audit. I would like to congratulate the staff, especially the Department of Finance for coming up with the documentations and for working with the auditors for the past six months, so that's a good leeway for the 2017 audit. Hopefully some of the reoccurring findings in the 2016 audit [cease to be] a finding in the 2017 audit," she said.

Dog pound faces shortage of space

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Dog Control Program's limited capacity to house animals is proving to be a challenge.

The last survey conducted by the Dog Control Program in 2014 netted 21,000 stray dogs and puppies. Since then, the program has been working on ways to capture as many strays and has tried to neuter as many dogs as possible.

Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch said the temporary pound in As Perdido can only hold up to 40 to 50 animals at a time.

Since the original pound in Lower Base was deemed unsafe after Typhoon Soudelor almost two years ago, the Dog Control Program was forced to temporarily move the pound to As Perdido. The temporary shelter is smaller than the original one and the program is forced to make do.

According to Marchadesch, the pound puts down 10 to 20 dogs a week in order to make space for strays that the program brings in every day. Roughly, the program brings in five to 10 dogs per day.

As much as possible, the pound doesn't want to put down any animals, Marchadesch said, although there are certain instances where it is the only choice. When a dog is injured or is severely sick and in need of treatment that is not offered in the Commonwealth, the pound has no other choice but to euthanize them. If a dog is not claimed at the pound within five days, it is either put up for adoption or put down.

Marchadesch is urging the community to come out and check out the dogs that are currently at the pound.

The program encourages the adoption of a dog or a cat. The adoption fee is $20, not including registration and vaccination.

Owners may register their dogs for $5 and vaccinations range from $3 to $5.

For additional information regarding the Dog Control Program and adoption of strays, call the animal shelter at 234-8905 or call Marchadesch directly at 783-4743.

Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
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Sunday, May 21, 2017
Time: 8am to 12noon
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House committee pushes for passage of several measures

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Ways and Means, chaired by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), recommended Monday the passage of four bills, all related to the CNMI's finances.

The committee wants the entire chamber to pass House bills 20-2, 20-10, 20-42, and 20-75 at the next House session. House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) has yet to schedule one.

HB 20-2 is the Areca Nut Excise Tax Act of 2017. Its author, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), hopes to increase the excise tax collected by the CNMI when importing betel nut also called areca nut.

Attao's bill seeks to impose a tax of $3 per lb of areca nut.

He cited recent studies, reports, and presentations that showed that consumption of betel nut poses health risks. It was also revealed that betel nut is addictive and is "consumed in many parts of the world by people of all age groups."

He cited research by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the World Health Organization of the Western Pacific Region, and a similar study by Dr. Yvette C. Paulino, which confirmed that betel nut chewing—with or without tobacco—could cause oral cancer.

Paulino is an assistant professor of Health Sciences at the University of Guam and she presented her research on the risks of betel nut chewing during the Oral Cancer Health Forum on Saipan in 2015.

"The intent of this act is to increase the excise tax on the importation of areca nut [betel nut] into the CNMI," said Attao.

HB 20-10, introduced by Ways and Means chair Demapan, aims to establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account. The bill aims to have a specified amount from the business gross revenue tax deposited into a special fund that would ensure and protect the CNMI retirees' future payments.

The bill would establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account under the CNMI Treasury, which would be separate from the general fund. Money deposited on this account will be exclusively for the payment of the minimum annual expense intended for the Final Amended Stipulation and Settlement Agreement in the CNMI District Court Case 1:09-cv-00023.

The CNMI has agreed to make minimum annual payments to the Settlement Fund amounting to 75 percent of class members' full benefits.

BGRT revenues shall be deposited each fiscal year to the settlement fund. The amount is as follows: $45 million (2018), $44 million (2019), $43 million (2020), $42 million (2021), $41 million (2022), $40 million (2023), and $39 million (2024).

The third bill, HB 20-42, hopes to amend the existing tax law to impose a tax on artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and create tax brackets for people engaged in agriculture and fishing based on annual gross revenue. Rep. Angel Demapan introduced the measure.

There would be no tax for those earning under $20,000 and a tax of 1 percent of total gross revenues for those earning over $20,000.

Demapan wants to include artists registered with CCAC, saying these artists are are self-sufficient and help promote the CNMI's cultures and traditions.

HB 20-75, another Demapan bill, aims to establish a separate Drug Court Revolving Fund and authorize the Commonwealth Superior Court's Drug Court to impose fees on Drug Court participants.

The Drug Court Revolving Fund, once established, will be within the Department of Finance. It will be separate from the general fund and is non-lapsing and the chief justice would be its expenditure authority.

The Drug Court will also be authorized to impose assessment fees on participants at their discretion at anytime, the amount must also be in accordance with the Judiciary rule-making authority and published in their fee schedule, and the amount collected would be deposited to the Drug Court Revolving Fund.

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Kilili: Bill will strengthen OSHA, protect workers

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has joined 16 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives in legislation that would bring back the authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to require that employers keep workplace injury records. Action last month by President Trump overturned existing record-keeping rules. The bill that Sablan is supporting also allows OSHA to cite employers in cases where the violation of the recordkeeping requirements continues for more than six months.

"With the recent spate of serious workplace injuries in the Marianas and resistance to OSHA workplace inspections by certain employers," Sablan said, "now is not the time to be making easier to hide information about who is getting hurt and how.

"We all have an interest in job safety, whether we are working in situations where injury is more likely or whether we want to maintain the reputation of the Marianas as a place where worker safety is considered important."

Sablan is ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Accurate records are essential to identify workplace hazards that cause serious injuries. Without reporting, injuries and illnesses are masked from workers and from OSHA, and corrective actions needed to save life will not be taken.

"It was reports of a pattern of injuries by the Commonwealth Health Center late last year that caused OSHA to take a hard look at the Best Sunshine construction site," Sablan said. "If there had been better reporting earlier on, maybe a life could have been saved or serious injuries avoided."

The bill introduced on Monday is called the Accurate Workplace Injury & Illness Records Restoration Act. Primary author Mark Takano (D-California) said the bill "reflects our responsibility to protect workers from preventable workplace accidents instead of protecting corporations from the consequences of repeated safety violations."

Other members joining Takano to introduce the legislation were Reps. Joe Court-

See OSHA on Next Page

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Tinian exercise strengthens multinational response

U.S Marines and French soldiers train together during the final exercise for Jeanne D' Arc 2017. This exercise gave an opportunity for American, French and Japanese military forces to train together and work with partner nations while sharing tactics, strengthening coordination and communication and increasing interoperability.

GUNNERY SGT. JUSTIN PARK

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The annual French-led training exercise held on Tinian ends today is designed to strengthen the response capabilities of a multinational force in the region.

Close to 1,000 troops from France, the United States, Japan, and Great Britain participated in the weeklong exercise, dubbed Jeanne D' Arc, held in the waters around Tinian and Guam.

A total of 800 French sailors, 25 French troops, 25 Japanese soldiers, 100 U.S. Marines, and some British Royal Marines were involved in the exercise. The French sailors stayed in the ship while their ground forces were deployed and transported by the amphibious assault ship *Mistral*.

Several AW101 British Merlin helicopters and French landing craft were used to bring the participants inland.

U.S. Marine Corps Activity Guam public affairs officer Maj. Tim Patrick said the French-led activity's purpose is to exercise freedom of navigation through the South China Sea.

Tensions remain high in the disputed region, where China built military structures in several small islands. International news agencies reported yesterday that China has already installed rocket launchers in some of their maritime outposts.

The exercise also aims to develop and practice amphibious assault capability using a multi-national force.

Patrick said building relations between multinational forces is another purpose of the exercise. "The purpose of this exercise is to build on relations and mutual coordination measures between our multinational forces."

"The training over the last few days focused on command and control, amphibious and helicopter assault operations, as well as integration between ground and naval forces," said Patrick.

He added that the exercise is also intended for the U.S. military to quickly respond to emergencies. "Expeditionary forces such as these are a growing part of the U.S. ability to swiftly and effectively respond to crises, from humanitarian assistance to full-scale combat."

He said the exercise is held annually but U.S. troops are not always involved. "This exercise also represents only a fraction of the multinational exercises and operations that take place in the Pacific region."

"Following this exercise, the forces will re-embark the French ship *Mistral* and sail back to Guam before finally transiting back to Japan to disembark the U.S. and Japanese forces."

Patrick said all participants had a memorable experience on their stay on Tinian. "Everyone has been very accommodating and I always feel welcome here. It makes the job a pleasure because training our forces is vital. It keeps the edge sharp and it saves Marines' lives."

He said the exercise also enhances the multinational forces' capabilities in amphibious activities. The 3rd Battalion and 8th Marine Regiment composed the U.S. ground combat troops.

"This exercise gave an opportunity for those participating to train together and work with partner nations while sharing tactics, strengthening coordination and communication and increasing interoperability."

"Jeanne D' Arc enhances our multinational amphibious capability at the tactical level to keep our forces adaptive and lethal," said Patrick.

Manglona wants contractors licensed in NMI

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has introduced Senate Bill 20-26, a legislative measure that would require all construction firms in the CNMI to obtain a license to do business in the Commonwealth.

Manglona said his bill is a "public protection against the incompetent, inexperienced, unlawful, and unfair practices of contractors with whom they may contract."

He said SB 20-26, if it becomes a law, would add one new member to the Board of Professional Licensing that would represent the contractors and would appoint a Department of Public Work's Building and Safety Code Division officer as a non-voting member.

"The member representing the contractors must be actively engaged in the contracting business in the Commonwealth for a period of not less than five years preceding the date of their appointment," added Manglona.

BPL has the authority to regulate and license contractors in the CNMI. It also licenses and regulates architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, contractors, and real property appraisers.

SB 20-26 defines contractors as persons who engage in bidding for projects in construction, alteration, repair, moving, or demolition of buildings, highways, roads, railroads or any type of fixed structure.

This includes excavation sites, development and erection of scaffolding, and general contractors.

The term contractor includes subcontractors and any person connected in general engineering, building, or specialty contractors that perform the activities listed above.

SB 20-26 also classifies contracting businesses as those involved in general engineering contracting, general building contracting, and specialty contracting.

The board will oversee the applications for licensure and shall be signed and sworn to under penalty of perjury by the applicant. The board shall also provide the licensing fees.

"The board shall provide by rules and regulations the qualifications and requirements for licensure for each type of contractor branch. In the case of a partnership, joint venture, or corporation, any partner, member, or officer thereof may sign the application and verify the same on behalf of the applicant," said Manglona.

$500K

From Page 1

tant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

A cooperating defendant allegedly managed to buy 10.6 gross grams of "ice" worth $2,000 from Hu during the first "buy-walk operation" in the parking lot of a store in Dandan last April 14.

During the second "buy-walk operation" at the same parking lot last May 10 the cooperating defendant bought 5.3 gross grams of "ice" worth $1,000 from Hu.

Police said the cooperating defendant then called Hu on her cellphone and placed an order for 20 grams of "ice" worth $4,000 on Tuesday. When Hu arrived at the store's parking lot on Tuesday morning, task force officers arrested her and allegedly seized from her 27.2 gross grams of "ice."

Officers also executed a search warrant at her house in San Antonio and on her vehicle, where more drugs were allegedly found.

IPI

From Page 1

in these sections.

The certificate was issued on Tuesday, May 16, and ends on Nov. 16 this year. The certificate must also be placed in a prominent area of the facility and the building official is the only person allowed to remove it.

The certificate also releases the CNMI government of any liability in case of death, injury, property damage, etc. while the "structure is under conditional occupancy." It also restricts the use of tower cranes 3 to 6 so it won't "encroach over the airspace of the occupied areas anytime."

Safety officers must also monitor the limited use of the tower cranes and a safety plan must also be in place "during the installation of the required seismic brackets and hangers for sprinkler piping."

DPW Secretary James Ada, in an earlier interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said that personnel of the Building Safety Code Division have been inspecting the site and meeting with IPI representatives to make sure the facility is safe for occupancy before they could issue a conditional permit.

IPI's initial plan was to begin the operations of the casino floor while construction of the hotel component will continue. Opening was delayed twice, on Chinese New Year on Jan. 28 and by the end of March.

NO FOUL

From Page 1

as the investigation is ongoing.

A Tinian resident told *Saipan Tribune* that the victim was found dead at West Field on Thursday while working on a contract with an Air Force contractor surveying West Field for the divert facility. The resident asked why DPS did not release information about the incident to the media. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OSHA

From Page 3

ney (Connecticut), Bobby Scott (Virginia), Jared Polis (Colorado), Darren Soto (Florida), Frederica Wilson (Florida), Donald Norcross (New Jersey), Suzanne Bonamici (Oregon), Mark DeSaulnier (California), Carol Shea Porter (New Hampshire), Gene Green (Texas), Pete Visclosky (Indiana), and Adriano Espaillat (New York).

In the Senate, seven members have sponsored a companion bill: Ranking member Patty Murray (Washington), Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Kirsten Gillibrand (New York), Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts), Margaret Hassan (New Hampshire), and Al Franken (Minnesota). ***(PR)***

Guam residents cast wary eye at N. Korea

AP

In this May 11, 2017 photo, Charles Esteves, center, administrator of the Guam Office of Civil Defense talks to co-workers during meeting in Agana Heights, Guam. The agency is watching activities in North Korea as it conducts its ballistic missile tests. While most of the United States is still out of reach of a missile launched by North Korea, the U.S. territory of Guam, a key military hub in the Pacific, could be within range.

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—While most of the United States is still out of reach of a missile launched by North Korea, the U.S. territory of Guam, a key military hub in the Pacific, could be within range.

That realization, coming after a missile launch over the weekend, had residents of the island casting a wary eye amid rising nuclear tensions between Pyongyang and Washington. Some worried they might find war at their doorstep, while others say they are more concerned about the potential loss of vital tourism dollars than they are a nuclear attack.

"I think it is scary since North Korea is just insane, to echo the general consensus about North Korea," said Farron Taijeron, a 29-year-old scuba instructor in Guam.

Patricia Anna Cruz, a 62-year-old substitute teacher, noted that even if you don't go to war, "war may be right next to you."

U.S. experts said the missile launched over the weekend could have a range of 4,500 kilometers (about 2,800 miles), putting Guam easily within range.

Guam is armed with the U.S. Army's missile defense system known as Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, the same system recently installed in South Korea.

"Whether or not they truly have that capability (of reaching Guam), I'll leave that up to our DoD partners to worry about that threat," said Charles Esteves, Guam's Office of Civil Defense administrator. "But with all the layers of defense ... basically we provide that sense of assurance to the public."

Some locals are more concerned about the perception of tourists than any actual threat.

"Guam's primary industries are tourism and of course the military," Esteves said. "So if we start seeing a significant change in our tourist numbers then maybe there's a need for concern."

Gelica Sablan, a 25-year-old Guam resident and college student, echoed those concerns: "Other people from neighboring Asian counties or any country in general might not want to come here because they might think it's a threat that their safety might be compromised."

Some analysts believe the missile, if proven in further tests, could possibly reach Alaska and Hawaii. Others doubt it has that range.

Tasha Rine, a registered nurse from Kenai, Alaska, said the threat from North Korea was a "little too close for comfort.

"I think it should be causing all of us concern at this point," she said while sitting on the steps of a federal building in downtown Anchorage, just after eating her first-ever reindeer dog, purchased from a street vendor. "We live in a very unstable world, and I think that's deeply concerning, and it should be."

Madison Orland wins 2017 congressional arts contest

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Madison Orland has been named the winner of the 2017 Congressional Art Competition for Guam during an awards ceremony held at Cars Plus. Orland is a junior at Simon Sanchez High School under the instruction of Ronald Canos. Orland used color pencils to create her work titled, "Chamorro Resiliency."

Madison competed with 46 other high school artists from eight public and private schools on island. Her piece will be displayed in U.S. Capitol Complex in Washington, D.C. for one year. ***(PR)***

Brenda A. Iglecias
P.O. Box 520212 Tinian,
MP 96952
670-433-9572

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of the Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: Brayden John Atalig Iglecias-Santos Hailey Rae Iglecias-Santos Minor Child By: Brenda A. Iglecias Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0224 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 2, 2017 at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom Tinian before Honorable Judge Camacho.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family Fun Night at Hopwood

Hopwood Middle School will be having a Family Fun Night Program on Friday, May 19, 2017, from 5pm to 9pm Please invite your families and friends to come on Friday! There will be raffle tickets and lots of prizes. Performers include the HDMP Band, Simiyan Marianas, Re-Up, and Saipan Music and Dance Studio. Entrance is free. There will be free games and several food vendors. ***(PR)***

USA Fanther damages IT&E cable

On Monday, USA Fanther damaged several pairs of fiber optic cable in Garapan. USA Fanther is being subcontracted by Best Sunshine International and is performing digging activities without adequate clearance, affecting landline and DSL customers from T Galleria to I Love Saipan. IT&E has isolated the issue and would like to apologize for the temporary outage caused by USA Fanther this week. The public and all contractors are reminded that they are required to contact IT&E seven days before any digging activity so that IT&E cables can be properly marked to prevent these outages and inconveniences to our customers. Affected customers are being asked to inform CallCenterLeads@itehq.net. ***(IT&E)***

Navy to hold underwater training in Outer Apra Harbor

ASAN, Guam—The Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct underwater detonation training in Outer Apra Harbor today, May 18, from 8am to 4pm. For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish a safety zone to restrict access in the vicinity.

As part of the training, EODMU 5 will detonate a total of 5 lbs of explosives beneath the water's surface on a sandy bottom.

EODMU 5 performs underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support in Guam and the CNMI.

The Navy conducted a multi-year environmental analysis, following which the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, granted the Navy authorization to conduct underwater detonation training. The Navy is a committed environmental steward and employs protective measures to safeguard marine resources.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. ***(PR)***

BBQ cookoff at Taste of the Marianas on Saturday

The 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held Saturday in May at the Garapan Fishing Base from 6pm to 10pm. Registration is open for the first 10 participants in the BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff co-sponsored by Twins and Hannam supermarkets, with hundreds of dollars in cash, shopping gift certificates, and Taste tokens for the top three winners. This Saturday's entertainment includes the Out of the Ordinary Band, CAB Dancers, Alana'ai, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, UBSES, and Da Kine. Cookoff registration forms and rules are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the last day to register is May 19. ***(MVA)***

NMC 37th Commencement Exercise will stream live online

Families and friends who are not able to attend the Northern Marianas College's 37th Commencement Exercise in person on May 20, 2017, at the Koblerville Gymnasium can watch the event live online. The graduation ceremony will be streamed live at the following website: http://www.marianas.edu/graduation2017/. The live stream will begin at approximately 4pm (Local CNMI Time) on Saturday May 20, 2017, and will end at about 6pm. ***(NMC)***

Learn basic Chamorro

Are you interested in learning the basics of Chamorro? Or do you speak Chamorro or understand Chamorro, and just want to practice your Chamorro language skills? The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program offers a free Beginner's Chamorro Literacy Class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this summer! Read and borrow books translated into Chamorro from the Motheread/Fatheread curriculum. Classes are held every Thursday from May to July. This is an eight-week class that meets every Thursday starting May 18, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm. Class schedule: May 18, 25, and June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Completion class on July 1(1pm to 2pm). Call 235-7319/783-7678 or email at cnmimotheread@gmail.com and sign up today. (PR)

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Register for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is still accepting team registrations for the 17th annual Corporate Challenge on Sunday, May 28, 2017. The event will be held at Minatchom Atdao. Registrations are due this Friday, May 19, 2017 at 5pm. Submit completed team player listing. Competing this year are Imperial Pacific, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Delta Management, The Shack, Pacific Trading Co., Marianas Pacific Distributors, IT&E, and Kanoa Resort. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later. The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Child seat checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint on May 24, 27, and 30.

On May 24, Wednesday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 7am to 9am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 10am to 12pm.

On May 27, Saturday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 5pm to 7pm.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 8pm to 10pm.

On May 30, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Chalan Laulau to Beach Road, San Antonio from 9am to 11am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan from 12pm to 2pm.

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways. ***(PR)***

DPS Rota to conduct seatbelt, child seat checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Rota Highway Patrol Section will be conducting seatbelt/child seat restraint checkpoints.

On Monday, May 22, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the road by San Isidro Church. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway by the Pinatang Park.

On Wednesday, May 24, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am by the San Francisco Highway at the Sinapalo 3 Park. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be at the San Francisco highway Uyulan area.

On Thursday, May 26, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am, San Francisco highway Igua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway Guata area.

On May 29, 2017, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatgua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, along the San Francisco highway Tatachog area.

On June 2, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatachog area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm is at the San Francisco highway Sonton area.

On June 3, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am along the San Francisco highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be along the San Francisco highway by Teteto beach.

In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(PR)***

NASA PROGRAM NMC

The Northern Marianas College School of Education's Teacher Preparatory Program was recently selected to participate in the National Aeronautics Space Administration's Minority University Research Education Project or MUREP. Four NMC students have been selected to participate in a NASA education program as part of their teacher training. Standing from left, Myron Mendoza, Edinna Cepeda, Mele'Ani Cepeda, and Jason Atrero. Also in the photo are NMC School of Education director Charlotte Cepeda, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC School of Education instructor and NASA team adviser Rosaline Cepeda. This is the third year MUREP's Office of Education has offered a summer program to help ensure that NASA can meet future workforce needs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by strengthening involvement with higher education institutions to include participation of underrepresented and underserved students. In a Skype conference that included NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Summer Program facilitators Dr. Ota Lutz, NASA senior education specialist for Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr. Lyle Tavernier, NASA education technological specialist; Dr. David Seidel, JPL executive educational director; Northern Marianas College SOE instructor Rosaline Cepeda and NMC SOE director Charlotte Cepeda, it was known that NMC-SOE's NASA team will be the first representatives from a far-western Pacific location.

Ex-DCCA chief claims to be heir of estate that got over $2.7M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao is citing Carolinian customary law to bolster his claim of being an heir of the Rita Rogolofoi estate.

That estate had just been awarded $2.7 million plus interest for a land compensation in 2009 and had received from the CNMI government $700,000 last February as advance payment.

The matter will be heard on June 1, 2017.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho first heard on April 13 Rogolofoi estate administrator Clarence "Bud" White's motion to approve a settlement between the CNMI government and the estate on a land compensation claim and to partially distribute proceeds under that settlement.

Camacho then continued to June 8, 2017, the hearing on the Rogolofoi estate's motion for approval of the settlement, and for partial distribution.

With the agreement of the parties appearing at the hearing, Camacho authorized a partial distribution in the amount of $100,000.

The judge ordered the administrators of the four subestates to agree on how to best distribute the $100,000.

On May 12, 2009, the Superior Court entered a judgment in favor of the administrator in the quiet title action, awarding the heirs to the Rogolofoi estate fee simple ownership and titles to two lots containing some 33,927 square meters.

The heirs were also awarded a total of $2,690,020.07, which represented "just compensation" for certain government takings and rental payments collected by the Department of Public Lands, plus 9 percent post-judgment interest.

The then-total judgment award plus post-judgment interest came out to a grand total of $2,844,566.64.

Faisao, through counsel Charles P. Reyes Jr., filed last Monday an heirship claim against the estate.

According to Reyes, Faisao is related to the late Rita Rogolofoi and now claims inheritance rights from the estate under traditional Carolinian customary law.

Reyes asked to be given the opportunity to present evidence showing that Faisao is entitled to a share of the estate of his grandmother's sister, Rita Rogolofoi.

Reyes asked the court to consider the application of traditional Carolinian cultural law to the distribution of estate assets, rather than the statutory application of the Western rules of intestate succession.

Reyes said Rita Rogolofoi's sibling is Micaria Rogolofoi Faisao.

He said Micaria Faisao had a son named Jesus Faisao, who was the father of Melvin Faisao.

Thus, Reyes said, Melvin Faisao is claiming inheritance rights based on his relationship to Micaria Faisao, his paternal grandmother, the sister of Rita Rogolofoi.

In White's motion, attorney Stephen J. Nutting, counsel for White, asked the court to approve a settlement reached with the government to satisfy a long outstanding land compensation claim and judgment entered against the DPL and the government.

» Govt gives Rita Rogolofoi estate $700,000 as advance payment

Nutting said that in 2009 the estate received a judgment in the amount of $2,690,020 plus post judgment interest.

Nutting said that last Feb. 1, the estate received an offer to settle the land compensation claim wherein the government agreed to make an immediate distribution of $700,000 with a commitment to repay a reduced portion of the balance due within three years.

TIn return for this commitment, the estate agreed to reduce the principal balance due and owing to the estate by 25 percent.

Nutting said at the time the proposed settlement was negotiated, the government made clear and counsel understood that a rejection of the settlement would only serve to place the estate back on a waiting list for future payments for land compensation claims to be paid when funds could become available and funds allocated to be paid off for that purpose would be approved by the Legislature.

Nutting said after meeting with family members and representatives of the four families that are the heirs of the estate, and with the advice of White and him (Nutting), it was agreed to accept the settlement.

Nutting asked the court to approve the settlement.

Nutting also disclosed that the $700,000 that the government advanced as payment against the land compensation claim are presently held in a client trust account of his law office.

Nutting proposed to deliver $600,000 of those funds to each of the heirs who are to be named and listed as shareholders in a family corporation, Likkarogh, Inc.

BOE REP PSS

Board of Education chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada administers the oath of office to Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero yesterday morning. Deleon Guerrero officially began his second consecutive term as the non-public school representative on the CNMI Board of Education.

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BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff at 'Taste' on May 20

Think you have the best barbecue ribs on Saipan? Bring your recipe and see if the judges agree at the BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff on Saturday, May 20, at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

Registration is still open for the first 10 adults. The fun starts at 5:30pm, with judging at 7:30pm and awards at 8:30pm. Registration is free, but competitors must provide their own grill, charcoal, ingredients, and other equipment. Ribs will be provided by sponsors Twins and Hannam supermarkets. The deadline to register is Friday, May 19, at 5pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

Sweet Escape satisfies the sweet tooth at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 13, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan. MVA

From left, Flowerpot T. Salas, Lydia Salas, and Norman Rasiang of Flowerpot Creations join other artists at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. MVA

Tony Roma's ribs, lasagna, and more sell fast at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. The festival is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA

Competitors in the "Kadun Pika" (spicy chicken) Cookoff prepare their dishes at 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. MVA

Poksai Guma Chamorro performs at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 6, 2017. The Taste of the Marianas will continue every Saturday throughout May Tourism Month. MVA

Desserts and more are on the menu of Hyatt Regency Saipan at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13,2017. MVA

Judges award Andrew Songsong first place in the "Kadun Pika" Cookoff at 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. Pictured from left are James Harris, Songsong and child, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Sophia Alvarez, Farah Younis, and Samson Tan. MVA

The Thai House Restaurant is one of 13 food vendors featured at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan. The Taste of the Marianas will continue every Saturday throughout May Tourism Month. MVA

took the challenge of the "Kadun Pika" Cookoff and prepared their dishes on site, with Andrew Songsong getting the highest judges' rating for first place, Gloria Tenorio in second place, Spencer Marchadesch and Angelo Camacho in third, and Kaliko Camacho in fourth. Nearly $900 in cash, shopping gifts certificates, and Taste tokens were awarded to the winners.

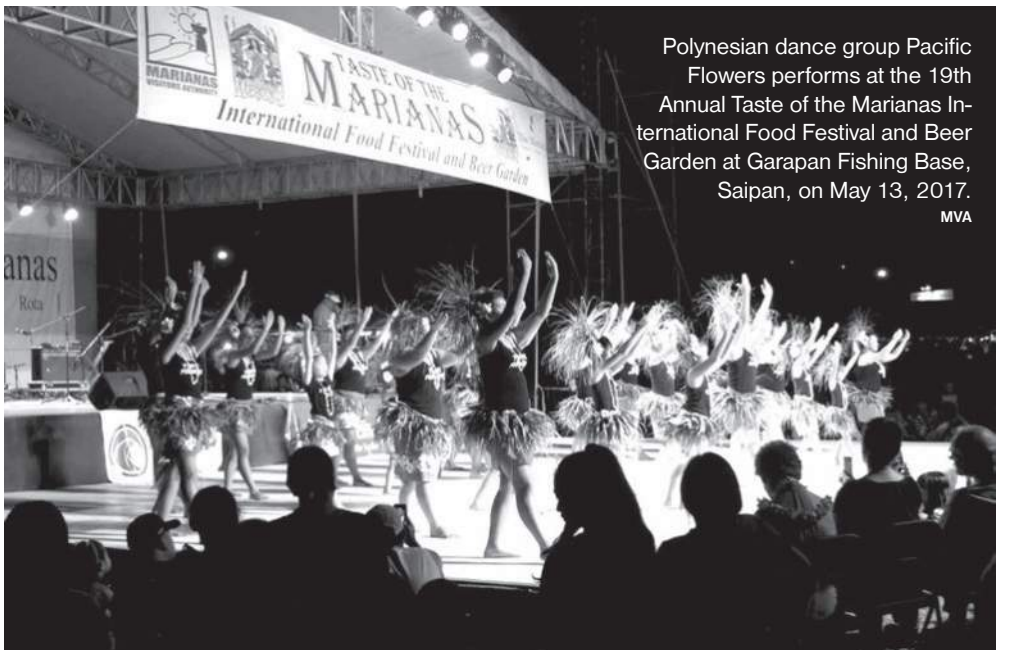
"We are receiving tremendous support from Twins and Hannam supermarkets for our new cookoff challenges this year, and we thank you," said Community Projects specialist and Taste lead coordinator Ray Villagomez. "Most especially, we thank all the competitors for coming out to share their specialty dishes."

Thirteen food and three beverage vendors are participating in the MVA's annual signature event, which features international cuisine at affordable prices from hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday in May, closing at 11pm on the final night.

Participating food vendors are Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Herman's Bakery, D'Elegance Cafe, Furusato Restaurant, Thai House, Tropical Chills, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Sweet Escapes, Matty's BBQ, and Tony Roma's/Capricciosa. New this Saturday will be Kinpachi Restaurant.

Residents are also encouraged to show their support for Tourism Month by observing "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit" Island Wear Fridays and participating in Tourism Trivia on KCNM-KZMI, KKMP, KWAW, and Power 99.CNMI students grades 6-12 can win cash and Taste tokens in the "See My Marianas" graphic art design contest, which has been extended to May 19.

For registration forms and rules for the BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoffs, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarianas or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***



Polynesian dance group Pacific Flowers performs at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. MVA

Japanese travel agents visit the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, on May 13, 2017. The agents are on a familiarization tour arranged by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA

MarPac donates $2.5K to Tournament of Champions

MarPac, Inc. donates $2,500 in in-kind contributions to the organizers of the Governor's Tournament of Champions. From left, Guy Pudney, MarPac general manager; Paul Shimizu, owner, Ambros, Inc.; Marie Sablan, TOC committee member; Ben Babauta TOC tournament director; Surina Reyes, TOC committee member; Tom Basa Jr., MarPac sales manager, and James Lee, MarPac sales manager.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In its ongoing efforts to support activities that enhance the CNMI's reputation as a prime tourist destination, MarPac, Inc. has donated over $2,500 in in-kind contributions to the organizers of the 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, 2017.

"Over the years the Governor's Tournament of Champions has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that has funded important community projects," said Guy Pudney, MarPac, Inc. general manager. "We are happy to be part of this year's tournament and look forward to an exciting weekend for all the participating golfers!"

"Year after year, we have counted on MarPac for its generous contribution and support," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are glad to be partnering with the company again this year."

The 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on May 27 and 28. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500, $400, $300, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include a brand new 2017 Honda Civic hatchback donated by Joeten Motors, a brand new 2017 Hyundai Grand Santa Fe donated by Triple J Motors, a brand new 2017 Limited Edition 50th anniversary Toyota Corolla donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, a $10,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by Pacifica Insurance, a $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by McDonald's Saipan, and one year of free golf donated by Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Kensington, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Road pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2017 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***((PR)***

336 to graduate from UOG on May 21

» Commencement speaker is Attorney General of Hawaii, Douglas Chin

The University of Guam will recognize a record 336 prospective graduates on Sunday, May 21, 2017, in the UOG Calvo Field House during its spring commencement ceremony.

The 336 total graduates represent the single largest graduating class in the university's history. Of the expected graduates, 270 will receive undergraduate degrees and 66 will receive graduate degrees.

Chin

"The university continues to showcase the wonderful achievements of its students," said UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood. "We will also have the opportunity to hear from a speaker who has made national headlines for challenging a presidential executive order and upholding the U.S. Constitution."

Douglas S. Chin, Hawaii Attorney General, is the commencement speaker. Chin was cast into the national spotlight in March for his challenge of President Donald Trump's revised travel ban, which suspended travel from seven Muslim countries and halted the U.S. refugee program.

Hawaii was the first to sue the U.S. government on the revised travel ban, on the basis that the order would harm its Muslim population, tourism, and foreign students. As a result, a federal judge in Hawaii blocked the executive order after hearing arguments it discriminates on the basis of nationality. In late March, the judge extended the restraining order on the travel ban.

"I am happy to go to the University of Guam to share my experiences and to encourage UOG Tritons to prepare for the challenges they will face," said Chin. "This is a time of uncertainty, but with that comes opportunity. I look forward to speaking with the graduates who will be working to make positive change in the coming years."

Attendance to the UOG commencement ceremony is by ticket only. Graduating students are encouraged to pick up their tickets at the Admissions Office and to call 735-2214 for more information.

For more on the University of Guam spring commencement ceremony, visit www.uog.edu/spring-2017-commencement. ***(UOG)***

E-Land Group, Lollipops are MINA Adopt-A-Bin sponsors

E-Land Group volunteers and students from Koblerville Elementary School pose for a photo during their cleanup at Coral Point Beach.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant awarded in 2015, was able to expand its Adopt-a-Bin Program, designed to encourage recycling throughout Saipan, by fabricating seven new recycle bins for placement around the island. The new bins are at the Garapan Fishing Base, Oleai Beach, Sugar Dock, Laly 4, San Antonio Beach, Coral Ocean Point, and Obyan Beach. With these new bins came the opportunity for MINA to take on new sponsors for the program.

As a result, MINA has two new sponsors for its Adopt-a-Bin program: the E-Land Welfare Foundation and Lollipops. The E-Land Group is well-established in other countries with activities that support job creation, scholarship opportunities, public facilities, vocational training, and even medical support in some countries. E-Land is not a new face to protecting our island's natural beauty. They often partner with students with the hopes to create a safe and sustainable environment through their environmental youth campaigns.

Lollipops is a locally owned business, offering a huge selection of toys and clothing for young children since 1987. After many years of customer requests, they expanded their boutique for young teens called "Girl Talk." With the mission to make shopping a fun and enjoyable experience for children and their parents, they are enthusiastic about their new sponsorship of the Adopt-a-Bin program and to give back to the island through supporting conservation efforts through recycling.

The Adopt-a-Bin program was established in 2010 with the goal to grow and strengthen a culture of recycling to reduce marine debris on Saipan's waters. Sponsors are a pivotal part in the sustainability of the program, providing a valuable service to the community. In addition to E-Land and Lollipops, current sponsors include Marianas Trekking, Flametree TV, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Managaha Pride Campaign, Ideal Signs/Saipan Computer Services, Brabu Pharmacy, IT&E, IP&E, Laolao Bay Pride Campaign, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, and Bridge Capital. Each sponsorship year, these businesses conduct a bi-annual cleanup around their site. Since the initiation of this program, over 150 tons of garbage have been collected in the recycling bins.

Today, there are 20 recycle bins placed throughout Saipan, 13 of which are already being sponsored and even that are open for adoption. For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A new start in Korea: The liberal president could alter the calculus

It is interesting to look at the new situation in the Korean peninsula and, in particular, America's relationship with the various parties there—South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan and even Russia—in light of the election last week of relatively liberal Moon Jae-in as president of South Korea. He succeeds the more conservative President Park Geun-hye, ousted in March.

Moon, the flag-bearer of the Democratic Party, won in a field of 12 candidates, the first liberal to occupy the presidency in 10 years. The issues in the contest included, naturally, the economy, which is reasonably healthy in spite of rising unemployment. Security was a second issue, underlined by rocket launchings (the latest was Sunday) and other militant actions undertaken in North Korea under Kim Jong Un.

A third issue was relations with the United States, an eternal question since South Korea's independence in 1948. It was significant as the Trump administration goes through its teething period of figuring out what America's posture should be in East Asia and South Korea's role in that policy.

Moon has pledged to swing South Korea's approach to North Korea, in spite of Kim's sometimes thunderous threats, toward a "sunshine policy." This is a South Korean approach that suggests it is directed toward reunification of the Korean peninsula. It has in the past included economic incentives, such as a South Korean business zone established across the border in the North, accompanied by inconspicuous economic aid to the poorer communist nation.

China also plays an important role. North Korea depends abjectly on Chinese help, with energy, rice and trade. China is also South Korea's most important trading partner, taking the lion's share of its exports and providing the largest share of its imports. The Chinese have begun squeezing the South Koreans through boycotts of their exports since the United States began installing in South Korea a missile-defense system, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System, which the Chinese claim is capable of targeting them as well as North Korea and, thus, destabilizing.

America could potentially spend less on Korean problems, including for the $1 billion THAAD system, visiting U.S. Navy aircraft carrier battle groups, and joint exercises with South Korea and Japan, if Moon's "sunshine" policy gained some traction. In the meantime, possible meetings between Trump, him and Kim remain pending.

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Optimism that populism waning seems premature

By MIHIR SHARMA
Bloomberg View

Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg View *columnist. Readers may email him at m.s.sharma@gmail.com.*

At a victory rally for France's young new President Emmanuel Macron outside the Louvre last week, I was struck by the generational gap between the candidate and his most animated supporters. Most younger people in the crowd looked relieved but far from overjoyed; the most visibly enthusiastic among them were of West African or Arab descent. And when Macron took the stage and began to speak, it was the older heads in the crowd that nodded at his words.

I remember, in 2002, watching French students my age demonstrate against right-wing nationalist Jean-Marie Le Pen, father of this year's losing candidate, Marine Le Pen: "Vote for the crook, not the fascist," they chanted, referring to the corruption-accused Jacques Chirac. Today, their equivalents chant "neither the banker nor the racist." From "vote" to don't—in just 15 years.

Liberals worldwide seem to have concluded, with a collective sigh of relief, that Macron's emphatic victory is a sign that the global "populist" wave has peaked and that time is on their side. Such optimism is premature. The weakness of Macron's appeal—and strength of Le Pen's—among many young French voters is further evidence of a disquieting truth: In many parts of the world, the young may simply care less about liberal democratic values than they once did.

True, young Britons largely voted against the idea of leaving the European Union and American youth overwhelmingly rejected Donald Trump's candidacy—although he may have won because not enough of them cared enough to turn out against him. And there are specific reasons why French youth might be angry: Youth unemployment is notoriously high, for example.

But, like all "economic anxiety" explanations for a turn to radicalism, this one is incomplete. After all, while youth unemployment is at 23 percent today, it was only a few percentage points lower in 2002, when French youth enthusiastically turned out against Le Pen's father.

The fact is, there's no reason to assume that younger, first-time voters will become a bulwark for liberal, centrist politics against a populist upsurge. A widely quoted paper last year by Roberto Foa and Yascha Mounk examined data from the World Values Survey and concluded:

"Back in 1995, for example, only 16 percent of Americans born in the 1970s (then in their late teens or early twenties) believed that democracy was a "bad" political system for their country. Twenty years later, the number of "antidemocrats" in this same generational cohort had increased by around 4 percentage points, to 20 percent. The next cohort—comprising those born in the 1980s—is even more antidemocratic: In 2011, 24 percent of U.S. millennials (then in their late teens or early twenties) considered democracy to be a "bad" or "very bad" way of running the country."

Survey results from the world's largest democracy are no more comforting. New Delhi's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies surveyed Indians between 15 and 34 last year and came out with some numbers that should depress liberals everywhere. A majority of those surveyed wanted to ban films that "hurt religious sentiments"; 24 percent would be unhappy living next to someone of African descent; 43 percent believed men were better leaders; only four percent married outside their caste. And, as it happened, about 60 percent said India needed "a strong leader who doesn't need to bother about winning elections."

In fact, political scientists and survey takers have been warning for some time that we shouldn't assume that young voters will usher in a new age of social and political moderation. Some have pointed out that millennials are more extreme than previous generations; others found nearly a quarter of young French people thought only a revolution could fix things, up from seven percent in 1990. And, of course, as the Atlantic's Derek Thompson has pointed out, 42 percent of young Americans surveyed by Pew said socialism was better than capitalism—even though only 16 percent could define it.

Nationalism and grievance are not exclusive to the old. In fact, in many countries, older generations have lived through darker and more illiberal times, and are thus more likely to understand the dangers of giving in to the politics of grievance that give birth to populism. We must accept that younger people seeking to find a place for themselves in a world they feel doesn't recognize their desires are as likely, perhaps more, to sustain illiberal populism as their parents or older siblings.

Ultimately, the aura of inevitability that liberalism has chosen to surround itself with over the past few decades may be its worst enemy. Too many liberals will sit back after seeing a victory like Macron's and believe that a natural order has been restored, not appreciating how many young people resent such smugness. Liberalism is not a default option; it has to be fought for, generation after generation.

Perhaps this one more than most.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Primary health care

By ELIZABETH KOHNEN M.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

All adults should have a primary care provider, often shortened to "PCP." This is a doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who is your first health contact and the person who thinks about the whole you—prevention, vaccinations, short- and long-term health problems, health education, mental and social health issues, and so on. Even if you're not sick, they can help you avoid future problems, recommend a good lifestyle, look for hidden risks, help you understand health problems that you may not know you have, and answer health questions.

Primary care providers have a broad knowledge of many health issues and can take care of most problems. For example, a PCP can manage and treat high blood pressure, heart disease, infections, thyroid illness, arthritis, chest pain, lung disease, diabetes, asthma and emphysema, anxiety, chest pain, most kidney diseases, back pain, depression and anxiety, maternal and child health, and so on.

If your disease is advanced or complicated and the PCP needs advice or thinks you may need a procedure or operation, she or he may refer you to a specialist. Specialists include cardiologists, urologists, pulmonologists, orthopedists, surgeons, nephrologists, endocrinologists, rheumatologists, neurologists, and more. Specialists understand a much smaller range of human health but they know it in better detail and depth. Your PCP will use a specialist's help to fit that one particular treatment into your total health needs.

It is important that you have one primary care provider to coordinate your care. If you do see a specialist, it is important that your PCP gets the records from the specialist to fit their advice into the big picture that is your health.

Imagine your health is like a soup, and doctors are the chefs. If one chef is making *katdun katn*e (beef shank soup) and has already added the beef shanks, carrots, celery, ginger, potatoes, garlic and onions to the water, and another chef walks in and thinks the soup is *eskabeche* (fish with vegetables in vinegar), she may throw in fish and vinegar. And if both chefs like spicy soup, and don't communicate, they may both add a generous helping of Tinian chilis. You would end up with an inedible soup. Without a head chef to coordinate what goes into the soup, you would end up with an unpalatable meal. Similar to the role of a head chef, it's important to have a PCP to oversee and coordinate your health care.

There may be times when you cannot see your PCP, and you need to see a different doctor. As long as the records (the recipe) are shared and there is good communication between the other doctor and your PCP, this can work. When your PCP gets information on your health from any other doctors you see, including those off-island, your PCP is better able to understand your health history, and better equipped to help you make the right decisions for your health. As a rule, pick a primary care provider and try to stick with her or him.

Most people don't like discussing their health with a stranger, so it's important that you choose a PCP that you trust. The next step is to attend regular appointments with your PCP. If you're healthy, you should see your PCP at least once a year. If you have a health condition, you should visit your doctor as often as she or he recommends. Even if you don't feel sick, your PCP can catch health issues early. Your doctor's office is a safe place where you can talk openly and ask questions about your health. Give your PCP the opportunity to help you achieve a healthier life by asking her or him for guidance when something is weighing on your mind.

Contact information is listed below for primary care providers in the CNMI. Note that some providers may not be accepting new patients at this time, or may not be covered under your health insurance plan. Check with your insurance company to see which providers are covered under your plan.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Women's Clinic (Lower Navy Hill, Saipan)
Phone: (670) 234-8950 Ext.3521/3522

Family Care Clinic (Lower Navy Hill, Saipan)
Phone: (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3503/3504/3505/3305

Children's Clinic (Lower Navy Hill, Saipan)
Phone: (670) 234-8950 Ext.3519/3520

Kagman Community Health Center
Tel: (670) 256-KCHC (5242)/5243/5240/5247

Tinian Health Center
Tel: (670) 433-9233

Rota Health Center

Marianas Medical Center (MMC)
Tel: (670) 234-3926/27/30

Saipan Health Clinic (SHC)
Tel: (670) 234-2901/02/03/04/05

Medical Associates of the Pacific (MAP)
Tel: (670) 323-9000

Pacific Medical Center (PMC)
Tel: (670) 233-8100

Marianas Health Services (MHS)
Tel: (670) 233-4646

Eucon Medical Health
Tel: (670) 233-3647

Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen is a physician at the Commonwealth Health Center.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Prioritize creating CMAC'

Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan Joey P. San Nicolas has every reason to be concerned for being ignored during the planning and execution of Operation Jeanne D' Arc 2017, "a joint training exercise with French, British, and Japanese soldiers on Tinian," according to a Joint Region Marianas media release. Imagine the backlash that would develop if a U.S. World War II veteran from the 2nd or 4th Marine Divisions, the 313th Bomb Wing or the 6th Naval Construction Brigade, a son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter had planned a memorial visit to Tinian a year ago, paid thousands of dollars and flown thousands of miles to visit, only to discover they were restricted from visiting North Field?

How would the public relations officer for JRM have managed that one!

Tinian tour guides receive individual travelers regularly. Not big business like on Saipan, but important to returning veterans and the Japanese, Okinawan, and Koreans who return to Tinian to memorialize their heritage.

This morning, I left our home on East 46th Street and turned north on Broadway to photograph historic sites that are now decorated with flame trees in full bloom, in particular the Hinode Shrine. Shortly after crossing 86th Street and before reaching the Japanese communication building, a polite young U.S. Marine stepped from a van rented from Avis and advised me that I had to turn back because of an ongoing military training exercise. This was irritating, for sure, but not devastating, as I can come back this weekend.

However, what if this had happened yesterday when I was leading a group of residents and guest from the *world* on a specially created tour of Tinian? Each person who signed up for the tour paid cash up front. Star Marianas Air got us to Tinian on time, and, with Deborah Fleming driving the van, we drove north on Broadway, just as I had this morning. Fortunately, we were not stopped and I believe all the guests departed Tinian pleased with their visit to our beautiful, peaceful island.

The story could have ended much worse. Had the tour been prevented from driving north on Broadway, as I was today, the atmosphere among our visitors would have been much different.

The potential conflict could have and should have been prevented. The founding fathers of the Commonwealth incorporated a mechanism into the Technical Agreement to the Covenant to deal with such problems. The Technical Agreement provides for the creation of the Tinian Civilian-Military Advisory Committee. Mayor JP has respectfully requested the establishment of CMAC to provide a forum to deal with this and other military-civilian issues, cooperatively and regularly, such as road maintenance on military leased land, solid waste disposal, and use of port facilities.

Hopefully, the failure of JRM to work cooperatively with the Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan on the planning and execution of Operation Jeanne D' Arc 2017 will stimulate the Tinian Legislative Delegation to make establishing the CMAC a priority.

Don Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Infrastructure: A clear path to jobs and growth

By SEAN MCGARVEY, JACQUELINE HINMAN, and NICHOLAS K. AKINS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Labor unions and the business community have come together to support a major economic priority—infrastructure investment. Infrastructure investment creates jobs now and builds a foundation for economic growth for generations to come. We have seen investment in highways, power lines and communication networks pay dividends for decades.

Too many cracks have weakened this fundamental part of our economy. The American Society of Civil Engineers in its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card examined 16 categories of infrastructure and awarded the nation a cumulative grade of D+. Aviation, dams, drinking water, energy, roads and inland waterways—each received a grade of D or D+.

The greatest nation in the world should settle for nothing less than an A, and it will take substantial investment and a coordinated approach to raise our grades.

As leaders of large U.S. companies and national labor unions, we join today in calling on the administration and Congress to enact a long-term infrastructure plan, addressing the permitting, regulatory, funding and financing issues that have crippled our ability to build. To guide that investment, we suggest these priorities for use by the administration and Congress:

■ Provide sustainable long-term funding—including an increase in the motor fuels tax—to ensure projects are financed and built

■ Fully implement the expedited regulatory and permitting approval process to speed up project completion, which will reduce project costs and facilitate financing

■ Identify and modify unnecessary regulatory barriers to project approval and completion

■ Support labor standards and skills, as a major infrastructure initiative will require even more talent for implementing both construction projects and the increases in manufacturing and industrial jobs that will be created

■ Support private-sector financing as a way to bridge the public funding gap, given the fiscal constraints on federal, state and local governments

■ Prioritize projects with the greatest economic impact

President Donald Trump has taken steps to address our nation's infrastructure concerns and has focused on infrastructure as a jobs creator. We were pleased that one of his first actions as president was to sign an executive

Business and labor have unified around the economic imperative of infrastructure, and we're confident our elected leaders in Washington can do the same. After all, support for good jobs and a stronger economy knows no party lines.

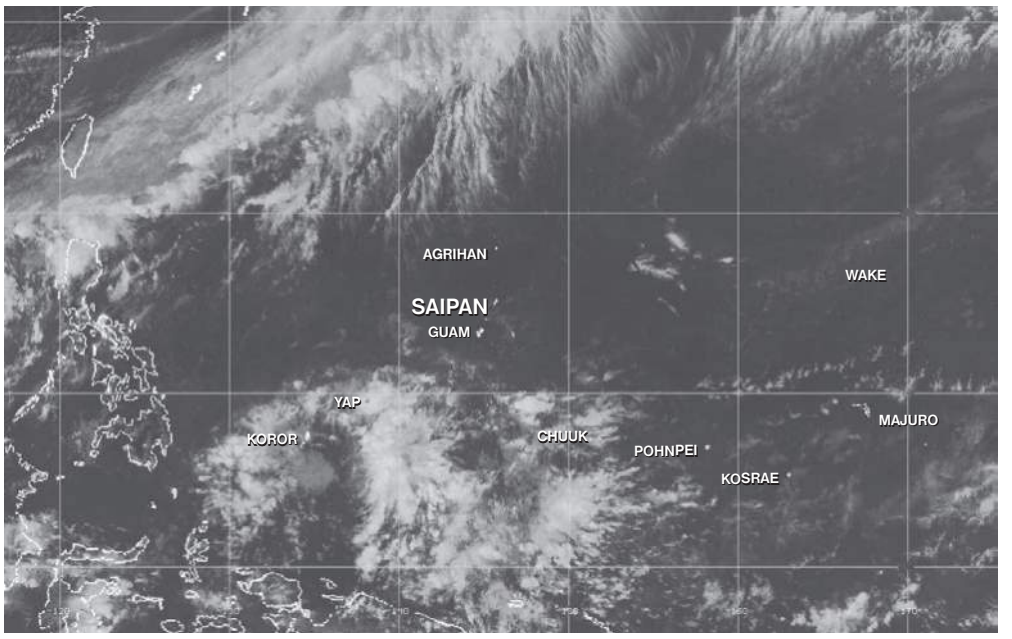
Sean McGarvey is president of North America's Building Trades Unions; Jacqueline Hinman is chairman and chief executive officer of CH2M and chair of the Business Roundtable Infrastructure Committee; Nicholas K. Akins is chairman, president and chief executive officer of American Electric Power and chair of the Business Roundtable Energy and Environment Committee.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny skies.	Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms in the morning.	Partly cloudy skies.	Sun and a few passing clouds.	Partly cloudy.
▲87º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were made to the inherited forecast. Nothing of real consequence to speak of in the coming week for the islands. A very weak shear line is expected to affect the Marianas on Friday. This shear line is very diffuse and will likely bring only a slight increase in showers. The primary change from this system will be an increase in cloud cover Friday and Friday night. Seas of 5 to 7 feet are expected to continue through the next couple of days before subsiding to between 4 and 6 feet Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88 | 81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	89 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	87 | 82 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	86 | 80 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	64 | 55 °F
Beijing	Sunny	88 | 68 °F
Hong Kong	Showers	79 | 74 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	83 | 71 °F
London	Partly cloudy	64 | 51 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly cloudy	68 | 57 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	91 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	68 | 46 °F
Miami	Rain	85 | 77 °F
New York	Sunny	92 | 71 °F
Osaka	Sunny	77 | 56 °F
Paris	Rain	61 | 49 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	84 | 57 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	82 | 61 °F
Salem	Overcast	61 | 43 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64 | 50 °F
Seoul	Sunny	79 | 54 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	71 | 57 °F
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	94 | 70 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
7:23 AM	LOW TIDE	1.17
11:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.48
6:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:29 AM	-
Friday	12:26 AM	12:21 PM	-
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:13 PM	-
Sunday	1:54 AM	2:07 PM	-
Monday	2:39 AM	3:03 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

US, Europe discuss new laptop ban on flights

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.S. and European officials will discuss Wednesday plans to broaden a U.S. ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to include planes from Europe.

The move would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest corridor of air travel - as many as 65 million people a year travel between Europe and North American on over 400 daily flights, many of them business travelers who rely on their electronics to work during the flight.

The ban would dwarf in size the current one, which was put in place in March and affects about 50 flights per day from 10 cities, mostly in the Middle East.

Airlines have said it is merely a matter of time before the ban is put in place, but the prospect has alarmed officials in the European Union, who want to know more about any new threats and the disruption such a move would create.

royal air maroc
ENREGISTREMENT DES VOLS À DESTINATION DE NEW YORK
تسجيل الرحلات نحو نيويورك
CHECK-IN FLIGHTS TOWARDS NEW YORK

AP
In this file photo dated Thursday, March 29, 2017, airport staff inform passengers at the check in area at Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport, Morocco.

There is also the question of the relative safety of keeping in the cargo area a large number of electronics with lithium batteries, which have been known to catch fire.

Experts say a bomb in the cabin would be easier to make and require less explosive force than one in the cargo hold. Baggage in cargo usually goes through a more sophisticated screening process than carry-on bags.

Experts say that the original ban focused on certain countries because their equipment to screen carry-on bags is not as effective as machines in the U.S.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security met last week with high-ranking executives of the three leading U.S. airlines—American, Delta and United—and the industry's leading U.S. trade group to discuss expanding the laptop policy to flights arriving from Europe.

The airlines still hope to have a say in how the policy is put into effect at airports to minimize inconvenience to passengers. The initial ban on passengers bringing large electronics devices into the cabin hit hardest at Middle Eastern airlines.

Emirates, the Middle East's largest airline, this month cited the ban on electronics as one of the reasons for an 80 percent drop in profits last year. It said the ban had a direct impact on demand for air travel into the U.S. and it faced rising costs from introducing complimentary laptop loans to some passengers.

Feds and Walmart allege canned tuna prices fixed

BANGKOK (AP)—Executives of the most popular tuna brands in the U.S.—Chicken of the Sea, Bumble Bee and StarKist—conspired regularly to keep prices high for consumers with a taste for one of America's favorite sandwich ingredients, according to criminal and civil court records updated this week.

A typical can of tuna today costs about $1.50 and the U.S. Department of Justice says that price may be the result of price fixing by Thai, South Korean and U.S. seafood dealers, while major retailers are suing alleging they've been ripped off.

The U.S. government began investigating criminal price fixing between the three companies more than two years ago.

Together the companies supply about 80 percent of the $1.7 billion of canned tuna sold annually in the United States, according to the court records.

Following up, Walmart and other top retailers filed civil lawsuits.

Those cases were updated this week with an appendix first reported by Undercurrent News that singles out dozens of tuna executives, roping in some of the wealthiest businessmen in Thailand, where Chicken of the Sea's parent company Thai Union is based.

"Thai Union does not comment on ongoing legal matters," the company said in a statement. The other firms did not respond immediately for requests for comment.

The litigation describes regular telephone calls and meetings where "executives agreed that all three companies would collective raise prices." They also agreed to "limit promotions and packaged tuna that undercut their published pricing," according to court records.

Thai Union's president and CEO Thiraphong Chansiri, his father Kraisorn Chansiri and dozens of other Thai and American executives are now identified specifically in the ongoing case. Thai Union owns Chicken of the Sea, Red Lobster and U.S. Pet Nutrition, among other companies. In-Gu Park, acting president of South Korea-based Dongwon Enterprise, which owns StarKist, and Chris Lischewski, president and CEO of San Diego-based BumbleBee also were named in the court records.

Although fewer Americans eat tuna every year, it's still a mainstay in most kitchens and the country's favorite type of fish. Canned tuna was popularized during World War 1, when it was a convenient protein for troops who returned home and continued to ask for it.

AP Interview: Surfer worked from bedroom to beat cyberattack

ILFRACOMBE, England (AP)—As a vast "ransomware" attack raced from computer to computer, infecting tens of thousands around the world, a young tech expert worked from his bedroom in England to bring the rampage to a halt.

But Marcus Hutchins doesn't consider himself a hero.

The 22-year-old credited with cracking the WannaCry cyberattack told The Associated Press he fights malware because "it's the right thing to do."

In his first face-to-face interview, Hutchins, who works for Los Angeles-based Kryptos Logic, said late Monday that hundreds of computer experts worked throughout the weekend to fight the virus, which paralyzed computers in some 150 countries.

"I'm definitely not a hero," he said. "I'm just someone doing my bit to stop botnets."

In the first hours after the virus struck Friday, the computer whiz and surfing enthusiast who lives with his family in a small seaside town in southwest England discovered a so-called "kill switch" that slowed the unprecedented outbreak. He then spent the next three days fighting the worm that crippled Britain's hospital network as well as factories, government agencies, banks and other businesses around the world.

WannaCry paralyzed computers running mostly older versions of Microsoft Windows by encrypting users' computer files and displaying a message demanding a ransom of $300 to $600 to release them; failure to pay would leave the data mangled and likely beyond repair.

Hutchins said he came across the solution when he was analyzing a sample of the malicious code and noticed it was linked to an unregistered web address. He promptly registered the domain, something he regularly does to discover ways to track or stop cyber threats, and found that stopped the worm from spreading.

Kryptos Logic chief executive Salim Neino said Hutchins' quick work allowed him to slow the virus on Friday afternoon European time, before it could fully affect the United States.

"Marcus, with the program he runs at Kryptos Logic, not only saved the United States but also prevented further damage to the rest of the world," Neino said in an interview from Venice, Italy. "Within a few moments, we were able to validate that there was indeed a kill switch. It was a very exciting moment."

Neino said the worm was "poorly designed"—patched together and a "sum of different parts" with an unsophisticated payment system.

Kryptos Logic is one of hundreds of companies working to combat online threats for companies, government agencies and individuals around the world. Hutchins himself is part of a global community that constantly watches for attacks and works to thwart them, often sharing information on Twitter.

It's not uncommon for members to use aliases, to protect from retaliatory attacks and ensure privacy, and Hutchins has long tweeted under the handle MalwareTech, which features a profile photo of a pouty-faced cat wearing enormous sunglasses.

But he realizes his newfound fame will mean an end to the anonymity.

"I don't think I'm ever going back to the MalwareTech that everyone knew," said the curly-haired young man, shrugging and flashing a winning smile.

Hutchins' mother Janet, a nurse, couldn't be prouder—and was happy to have the veil of anonymity lifted. When her son made the breakthrough, she said, she wanted to tell the world about it.

"I wanted to scream, but I couldn't," she said.

And now he's a celebrity. He's been in touch with the FBI, as well as British national cyber security officials.

His new life is likely to be a big adjustment. Hutchins works out of his bedroom in the seaside resort town of Ilfracombe on a sophisticated computer setup with three large screens. The concept of celebrity was clearly foreign to him.

He was nervous about giving an interview. The journalists were given the address minutes before it started, and had to provide a password before Hutchins would let them in. As he did a sound-check for the camera, he was so anxious he misspelled his last name, giving it as "H-U-T-C-H-I-S," without the "n." His mother made tea and coffee for the visitors.

Once Hutchins started to talk, he relaxed. Constantly smiling, he was shy and polite, and happy to explain how he fights malware. He said he was eager to get through the media frenzy and go back to his normal life.

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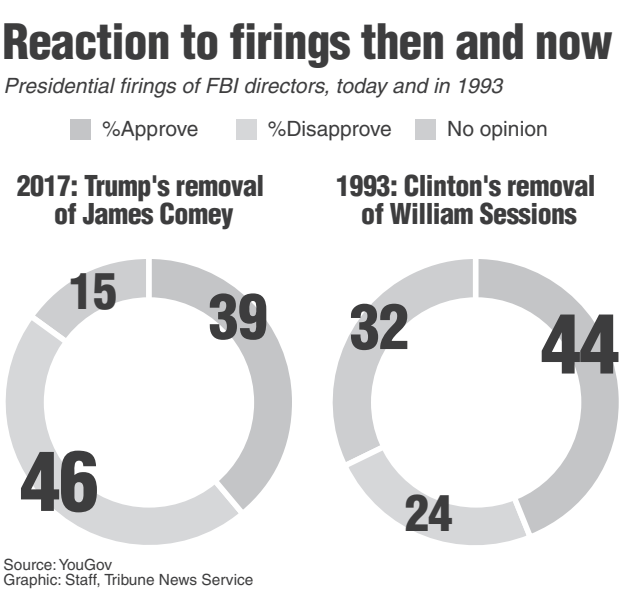
Nation

Besieged White House denies, defends as new bombshells hit

AP

CIA Director Mike Pompeo departs the Capitol after briefing members of the House Intelligence Committee in the aftermath of President Donald Trump reportedly sharing classified information with two Russian diplomats during a meeting in the Oval Office, in Washington, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.



WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump personally appealed to FBI Director James Comey to abandon the bureau's investigation into National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, according to notes disclosed late Tuesday that Comey wrote after the meeting. The White House issued a furious denial near the end of a tumultuous day spent beating back potentially disastrous news reports from dawn to dusk.

The bombshell Comey news came as the beleaguered administration was still struggling mightily to explain Monday's revelation that the president had disclosed highly classified information to the Russian foreign minister and the country's ambassador to the United States.

Defending Trump's actions, officials played down the importance and secrecy of the information, which had been supplied by Israel under an intelligence-sharing agreement, and Trump himself said he had "an absolute right" as president to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia. Yet U.S. allies and some members of Congress expressed concern bordering on alarm.

As for Comey, whom Trump fired last week, the FBI director wrote in a memo after a February meeting at the White House that the new president had asked him to shut down the FBI's investigation of Flynn and his Russian contacts, said a person who had read the memo. The Flynn investigation was part of a broader probe into Russian interference in last year's presidential election.

Comey's memo, an apparent effort to create a paper trail of his contacts with the White House, would be the clearest evidence to date that the president has tried to influence the investigation.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Republican chairman of the House oversight committee, sent a letter to the FBI on Tuesday requesting that it turn over all documents and recordings that detail communications between Comey and Trump. He said he would give the FBI a week and then "if we need a subpoena we'll do it."

The panel's top Democrat, Elijah Cummings of Maryland, a constant Trump critic, called the allegation of Trump pressure on Comey "explosive" and said "it appears like a textbook case of criminal obstruction of justice."

Republicans weren't going that far. But John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the Trump-Russia reports were "deeply disturbing" and could impede allies' willingness to share intelligence with the U.S.

Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader of the Senate, said simply: "It would be helpful to have less drama emanating from the White House."

The person who described the Comey memo to the AP was not authorized to discuss it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. The existence of the memo was first reported Tuesday by The New York Times.

2 dead after tornadoes hit Oklahoma, Wisconsin

CHICAGO (AP)—One person was killed when a tornado swept into a mobile home park in Wisconsin Tuesday and another person died when a twister hit a housing subdivision in Oklahoma, as a massive severe storm system battered an area stretching from the South Plains of Texas to the Great Lakes.

In Wisconsin, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told several media that the tornado damaged the Prairie Lakes Estates trailer park north of Chetek. The National Weather Service reported the tornado touched down in the area just after 5:30 p.m.

Helicopter video from WCCO-TV and KARE-TV shows extensive damage at the trailer park, with several homes reduced to rubble.

"It's a mess," Fitzgerald told the Leader-Telegram of Eau Claire. "It's pretty bad. We have at least one deceased so far and we're still in a search pattern."

Fitzgerald described the scene to KMSP-TV as "total devastation" and said first responders could hear people yelling for help when they arrived. He said at least one child was among the injured.

Chetek is about 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Eau Claire.

The Oklahoma storm struck about 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, wrecking much of a subdivision on the southern fringe of Elk City, Oklahoma, about 110 miles west of Oklahoma City.

The storm knocked out telephone service into and out of the city. But Fire Chaplain Danny Ringer told reporters at the scene late Tuesday that one person was known dead from the twister. He also said the storm destroyed 40 homes and damaged 50 to 75 others severely.

The mayor of the hard hit Wisconsin town, Jeff Martin, told KSTP-TV that numerous emergency vehicles went to the trailer park. He estimated the park had around 50 homes.

Devin Feuerhelm told KMSP-TV that his sister, Lenna Samuelson, lives in the park with her two daughters, Ashley and Brenna. He said her sister also had her 2-month-old grandson, Nolan, in the home when the storm hit, and they had nowhere to go but the bathtub.

Amazingly, Nolan escaped with just a couple of scratches, he said. Samuelson's daughters suffered minor injuries, and the mother suffered a gash on her head, but he said all are expected to be fine.

While their home was flattened, the SUV next to it was untouched.

A mobile home is a particularly dangerous place to be during a tornado, according to the National Weather Service. The Storm Prediction Center, which specializes in forecasting and gathering data on tornadoes, says that high winds during a tornado can rip a mobile home without a foundation from its moorings. In 2011, when devastating tornadoes struck in Joplin, Missouri, and in Alabama and Mississippi, 111 of the 551 people killed nationwide in tornadoes, or 20 percent, were in mobile homes, according to the Storm Prediction Center website.

Women in 30s now having more babies than younger moms in US

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time, women in their early 30s are having more babies than younger moms in the United States.

Health experts say the shift is due to more women waiting longer to have children and the ongoing drop in the teen birth rate.

For more than three decades, women in their late 20s had the highest birth rates, but that changed last year, according to preliminary data released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The birth rate for women ages 30 to 34 was about 103 per 100,000; the rate for women ages 25 to 29 was 102 per 100,000. The CDC did not release the actual numbers of deliveries for each age group.

It's becoming more common to see older parents with kids in elementary or high school, said Bill Albert of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

Meanwhile, more teens are growing up with fewer of their peers getting pregnant, he said.

"We always talk about peer pressure as a negative, but it can be a force for good," Albert said.

A separate CDC report focusing on deaths found the nation's overall death rate fell last year after an unusual and worrisome increase in 2015.

The reports are based on a first look at birth and death certificates filed across the country last year.

Among the findings:

- The overall birth rate was down slightly in 2016, to 62 births per 100,000 women ages 15 to 44.
- The average age when women have their first child is about 28.
- The teen birth rate continued to drop last year.
- The infant mortality rate stayed about the same.
- The overall death rate fell to about 724 per 100,000 people in 2016, down from 733 the year before.

Experts said the 2015 increase was tied to an unexpected leveling off in the death rate from the nation's leading killer, heart disease.

Heart disease and stroke deaths were falling steadily until 2011, but then the annual decreases shrank. In 2015, the heart disease death rate increased nearly 1 percent, and started to go down again in 2016.

Asia

PH, China vow closer ties, management of disputes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping resolved to strengthen their countries' friendship during their meeting in Beijing, with China pledging to speed up infrastructure projects it is funding in the Philippines.

"We renewed our resolve to strengthen our friendship and mutually beneficial partnership on a broad range of areas," Duterte said in southern Davao City on his return from Beijing. "We resolved to fully use the mechanisms we have established to dialogue openly, monitor progress and ensure implementation of projects."

Duterte, who took office last June, has worked to repair relations with China that have been strained by territorial conflicts in the South China Sea and an international arbitration ruling on a case filed by his predecessor that invalidated Beijing's claims to the disputed territory. Duterte met separately with Xi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang after attending last weekend's "Belt and Road" trade initiative.

Duterte said both he and Xi were looking forward to officials from both countries meeting later this week for inaugural bilateral talks on the South China Sea. Philippine officials have said the meeting will be held Friday in southwestern China.

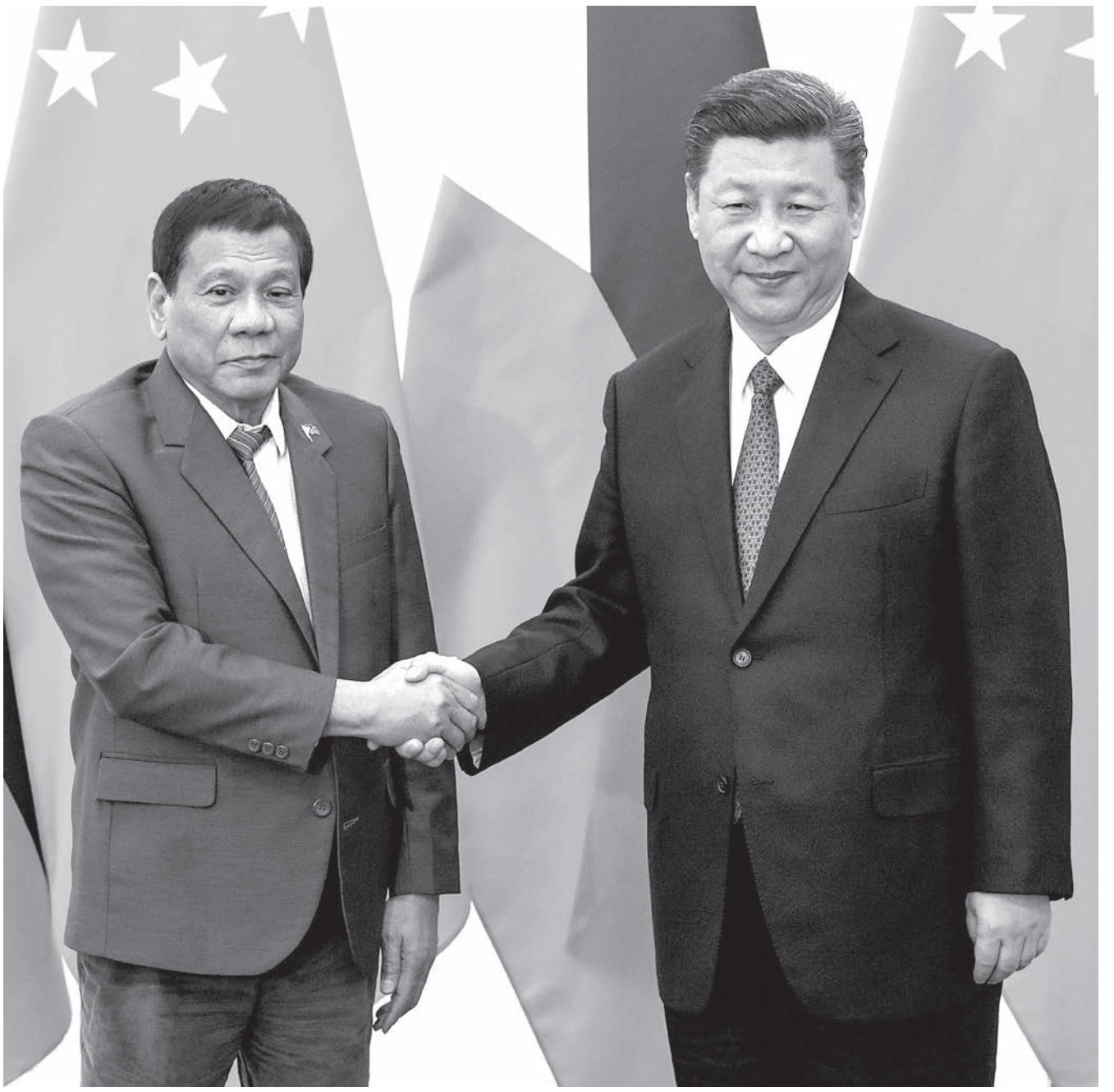
Duterte said he didn't raise the arbitration ruling while in Beijing.

"There is a time for me to ask about the arbitral ruling, but it is not now," Duterte said. The agenda, mechanics and "how to present our case to them" have to be ironed out first "because we agreed to talk and to have a dialogue," he added.

Four agreements were signed during the visit, including a Chinese grant of 500 million yuan ($72.5 million) for feasibility studies of infrastructure projects in the Philippines and construction of a drug rehabilitation center.

Also signed were memorandums of understanding on cooperation in human resources development and personnel exchanges, energy cooperation, and enhancing government capabilities in communication and publishing.

Duterte thanked China for its generosity, including providing grants and loans, promising to build two bridges for free in metropolitan Manila and increasing imports of Philippine agricultural products.



AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping pose for photographers prior to their bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Monday, May 15, 2017.

Japan's Princess Mako to marry ocean-loving legal assistant

TOKYO (AP)—Princess Mako, the granddaughter of Japan's emperor, will marry an ocean-loving legal assistant who can ski, play the violin and cook.

Japanese nuptials tend to be highly ritualized, especially for a royal family member, and the buildup to the wedding is likely to take time. A public announcement would come first, then a wedding date would be set and then the couple will make a formal report to the emperor and empress.

Quasi-public NHK TV reported the news late Tuesday and the Imperial Household Agency confirmed the report to Japanese media who belong to an exclusive "press club" system. But the agency declined comment to The Associated Press.

The man who won the princess' heart spoke to reporters Wednesday, and his comments dominated national TV coverage though he gave few details.

Kei Komuro said he works as a legal assistant and had just spoken over the phone with Mako, who had been a fellow student at International Christian University in Tokyo.

"When the right time comes, I'd like to talk about it," he told reporters, bowing repeatedly, wearing a suit and tie.

The couple, who are both 25, met at a restaurant in Tokyo's Shibuya about five years ago at a party to talk about studying abroad, and they have been dating several times a month recently, NHK said.

Komuro was once tapped as "Prince of the Sea" to promote tourism to the beaches of Shonan in Kanagawa prefecture, a facet of his profile highlighted by local media.

Women can't succeed to the Chrysanthemum Throne. Mako's father and her younger brother are in line to succeed Emperor Akihito, but after her uncle Crown Prince Naruhito, who is first in line.

Once she marries, Mako will no longer be a princess and will become a commoner.

NHK said Mako has already introduced Komuro to her parents, and they approve. A formal announcement could come as soon as next month, Japanese media said.

Unlike royalty in Great Britain and other European countries, the emperor and his family tend to be cloistered, although they travel abroad and appear at cultural events.

Akihito, 83, is the son of Hirohito, Japan's emperor during World War II.

Akihito expressed his desire to abdicate last year, and Japan has been preparing legislation especially for him so he can.

Until Japan's defeat at the end of World War II, Hirohito was viewed as divine, and no one had even heard his voice. But the times are changing, and the Japanese public harbors a feeling of openness and familiarity toward the emperor and his family. People are likely to see Mako's marriage as a celebration, although the rituals will continue to be tightly orchestrated.

US admiral: North Korea's actions 'recipe for disaster'

TOKYO (AP)—The top American military officer in the Pacific said Wednesday that North Korea's recent military actions are "a recipe for a disaster" and warned against a sense of complacency in the face of increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Adm. Harry Harris Jr. made the remarks at a lecture for a Tokyo think tank after meeting with Japanese leaders that he said focused on North Korea's missile and nuclear programs.

North Korea test-launched a missile on Sunday that many experts believe could be its most advanced yet, flying higher and longer than any previous missile.

Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: TNS

"Combining nuclear warheads with ballistic technology in the hands of a volatile leader like Kim Jong Un is a recipe for a disaster," Harris said. "Kim Jong Un is not afraid to fail in public and every test he makes is a success because it takes North Korea one step closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile anywhere in the world."

The missile on Sunday was deliberately fired on a "lofted" trajectory—reaching more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles), which is higher than satellites in low Earth orbit—to test re-entry capabilities and place its "splash zone" in the open Pacific.

Harris, head of the United States Pacific Command, based in Hawaii, said North Korea is "closer to being able to deliver a nuclear-equipped missile anywhere in the world" and called for further coordination between the U.S., Japan and South Korea to deal with the threat.

He also obliquely criticized China for throwing up obstacles to the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where Beijing has constructed island bases in the disputed waters, saying "we should fly, be able to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows."

While in Tokyo, Harris met Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defense Minister Tomomi Inada.

World

Syria denies US allegations of mass killings, crematorium

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria on Tuesday rejected U.S. accusations it carried out mass killings at a prison near Damascus and then burned the victims' bodies in a crematorium, describing the allegations as "lies" and "fabrications."

The allegations are a "new Hollywood plot" to justify U.S. intervention in Syria, Syria's Foreign Ministry said, noting what it called a U.S. track record of using false claims as a pretext for military aggression.

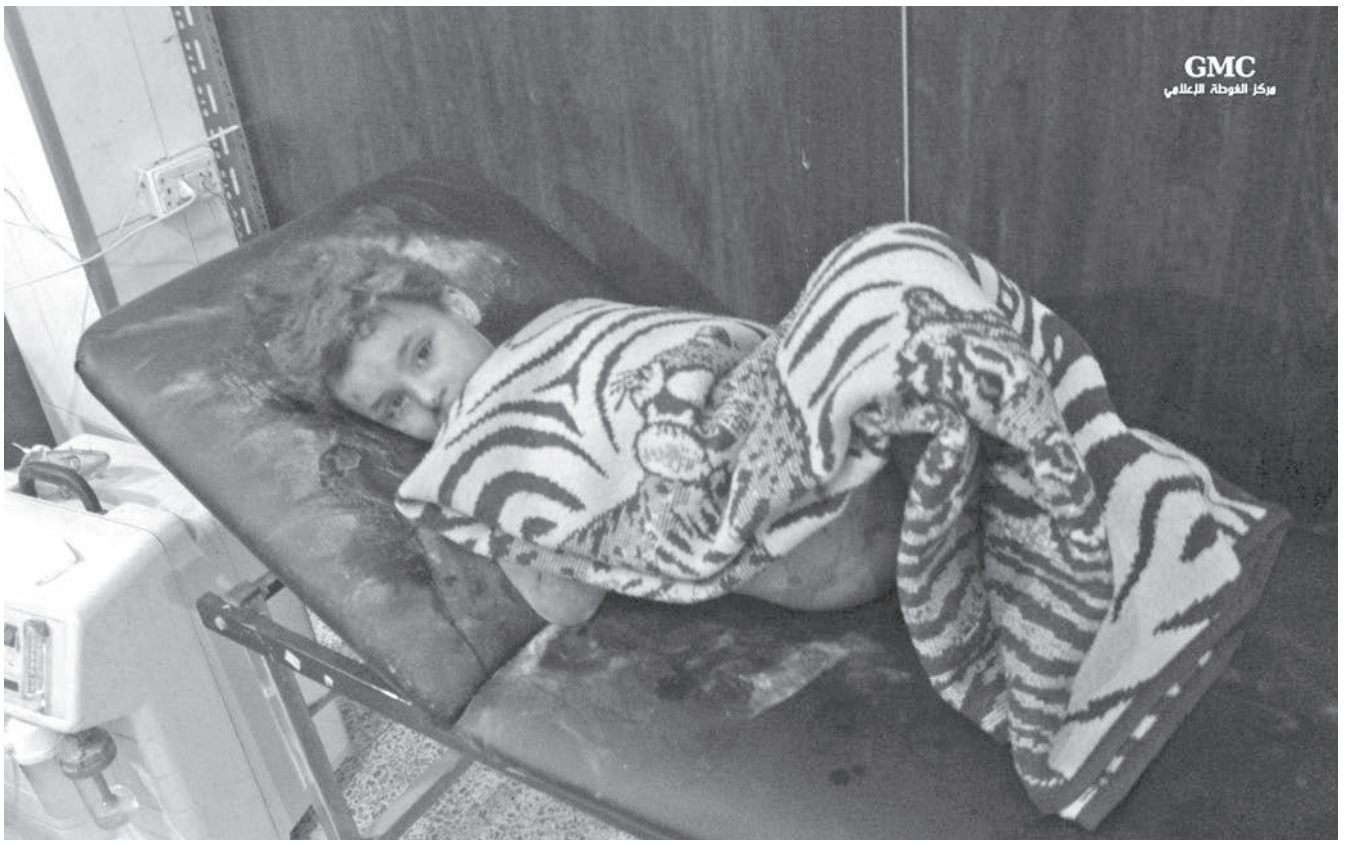
The State Department said Monday it believes that about 50 detainees are hanged each day at the Saydnaya military prison, a 45-minute drive north of Damascus.

Many of the bodies are then burned in the crematorium "to cover up the extent of mass murders taking place," said Stuart Jones, the top U.S. diplomat for the Middle East. He accused the government of President Bashar Assad of sinking "to a new level of depravity."

The Syrian government forcefully denied it.

"The U.S. administration's accusations against the Syrian government of a so-called crematorium in Saydnaya prison, in addition to the broken record about the use of barrel bombs and chemical weapons, are categorically false," the Foreign Ministry said.

The new allegation comes at a time when the Trump administration is weighing its options in Syria, where an estimated 400,000 have been killed and half the population displaced by the 6-year-old civil war.



AP

This photo provided by the Syrian anti-government activist group Ghouta Media Center, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a Syrian boy who was wounded by Syrian government forces shelling, at a makeshift hospital, in the Hamouriyya neighborhood, an eastern suburb of Damascus, Syria, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

The U.S. Treasury Department said it has frozen any assets that five Syrian people and five Syrian companies may have in U.S. jurisdictions and has barred Americans from conducting any financial transactions with them, citing Syria's "relentless attacks on civilians." Among those named were cousins of Assad.

Also on Tuesday, President Donald Trump met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House for talks on the conflict, refugee crisis and the fight against the Islamic State group.

Last month, the U.S. fired cruise missiles on a government air base after accusing Assad's military of killing scores of civilians with a sarin-like nerve agent.

Western monitors and watchdog groups say they have accumulated evidence of mass killings in Syrian prisons, though there have not been any substantiated allegations so far of the use of a crematorium.

The State Department released commercial satellite photos showing what it described as a building in the prison complex that was modified to support the crematorium. The photos, taken over several years starting in 2013, do not prove the building is a crematorium, but show construction consistent with such a facility.

The revelations echoed a February report by Amnesty International that said Syria's military police hanged as many as 13,000 people in four years before removing bodies by the truckload for burial in mass graves.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday that the world body cannot independently verify the U.S. report, saying Damascus has "systematically rejected" repeated requests to visit prisons and detention centers where thousands of prisoners are believed to be subjected to cruel treatment.

But Dujarric said "various U.N. entities have regularly documented and reported on human rights violations in Syria, including torture in the context of detention."

A former Syrian army colonel who joined the opposition said what the State Department revealed about Saydnaya "is not surprising."

Defector Ahmad al-Hammadi added that had the international community punished Syrian authorities for such killings they carried out from the start of the uprising in 2011, "we wouldn't have reached this point."

WORLD BRIEFS

Central African Republic violence 'highly worrying,' UN says

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP)—A series of attacks in remote areas of Central African Republic have forced more than 15,000 people to flee their homes over the past week while at least 130 are feared dead, authorities said Tuesday. Among the victims are six U.N. peacekeepers, marking the deadliest month for the mission since it began in 2014. The U.N. high commissioner for human rights warned that the violence in areas previously spared major sectarian bloodshed was "highly worrying." "The hard-earned relative calm in Bangui and some of the bigger towns in CAR risks being eclipsed by the descent of some rural areas into increasing sectarian violence, with defenseless civilians—as usual—paying the highest price," Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said. Gen. Balla Keita, commander of the U.N. mission, said at least 30 people were killed and 32 wounded when militia fighters from a predominantly Christian group known as the anti-Balaka attacked the southeastern town of Bangassou over the weekend.

Grisly 24-hour period leaves 4 dead in Venezuela unrest

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Business owners shuttered shops, a burned police station stood charred black and a state officer in western Venezuela was under arrest Tuesday following a spasm of violence that resulted in at least four deaths in anti-government protests. An especially grisly 24 hours of turmoil coming after nearly two months of political unrest had nervous residents staying indoors in restive cities like San Cristobal near the border with Colombia. Authorities announced Tuesday that four men ranging in age from 17 to 33 had died from gunshot wounds at separate protests over the preceding day. Diego Hernandez, 33, and Luis Alviarez, 18, were killed in Tachira, while Yeison Mora Castillo, 17, died near a protest farther east in the state of Barinas on Monday. Diego Arellano, 31, died during surgery Tuesday after being shot at a demonstration south of Caracas. Friends and relatives of Arellano gathered outside the clinic where he died and sang the national anthem as his body was removed from the facility. The nation's chief prosecutor said it was charging a 27-year-old state police officer in Hernandez's death, whose final moments were purportedly captured in a video circulating on social media. The footage shows a bystander ripping open Hernandez's blue T-shirt as he lay lifeless on the pavement, his eyes open and fixed, revealing a bloody wound underneath. "They killed him!" someone screams.

Rash of media murders highlights deadly threats in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A journalist is shot dead as she pulls out of her garage in the morning with her young son. Gunmen ambush another journalist while he lazes in a car wash hammock. An award-winning reporter is hauled out of his vehicle and gunned down a block from his office.

On Monday, Javier Valdez became the sixth journalist slain in Mexico since early March, a deadly spree unusual even in a country that ranks behind only Syria and Afghanistan for such murders. There's no evidence directly linking the killings to each other, but collectively they are a grim signal that lawlessness and impunity continue to threaten the lives and work of journalists across much of the country.

The killings come at a time when overall homicides rose 29 percent in the first three months of the year from the same period in 2016; high-stakes state elections and a presidential vote next year have been bitterly contested; corruption scandals are regular news; and a decade-old militarized offensive against brutal drug cartels shows no sign of being won.

"Mexico has become more dangerous in general over the past year, and that is affecting the way there is more fighting," Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope said. "Tensions are running really high in the underworld, so I think that people that are covering this are getting themselves into much riskier situations."

Valdez wrote the "Mala Yerba" column for Riodoce, the publication he helped found, in which he told stories without using real names. His last entry was titled "El Licenciado," a possible allusion to a Sinaloa cartel boss who used that nickname. Valdez also reported on organized crime, incidents involving state security forces such as a police attack on three women and alleged corruption during the term of Sinaloa state's previous governor.

Eduardo Buscaglia, an international organized crime expert and consultant, said Valdez and Riodoce had interviewed him many times and probed "links between politics, society and criminal groups, and that entails ... enormous risk."

The chief prosecutor of Sinaloa said he was unaware of any threats against the journalist. But the national newspaper La Jornada, to which Valdez contributed, said he had recently received threats "of a different caliber" that caused him and his wife to be concerned. Valdez traveled to Mexico City to consult with colleagues, who recommended he leave the country.

The spate of six killings began March 2 with the murder of Cecilio Pineda, an independent journalist in the southern state of Guerrero. The rest came in quick succession: March 19 in Veracruz. Four days later in Chihuahua. April 14 in Baja California Sur. May 2 in Morelos.

There were plenty of other non-fatal attacks during the same span, including the wounding of a media executive in Jalisco the same day that Valdez was slain; an assault and robbery of seven traveling reporters by a mob of 100 gunmen in Guerrero over the weekend; and an attempt on a reporter's life in Baja California Sur that killed his bodyguard.

Environment

Insects, disease ravage trees in Southern California.

Who's going to stop them?

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Insects and disease are killing an unprecedented number of Southern California's urban trees, but each day on his way to work, Los Angeles County plant pathologist Jerrold Turney sees opportunity amid the biological nightmare.

On the drive between his home in South Pasadena and his laboratory in South Gate, he takes stock of the survivors, the trees that offer some hope to the region.

"There's dead and dying liquidambars, oleanders and olives almost everywhere you look," he said, backing his car out of the driveway.

"Sycamores and plums? Forget it." He snapped his fingers. "They go like that.

"But there are winners out there too," he said. "Ginkgoes, Southern magnolias, pink trumpets, pepper and pines are hanging in there. I would even recommend replanting with pecans, if you've got room for those huge trees."

Amid the devastation, the race has begun to develop new lists of stronger, less vulnerable trees.

It's a first step in trying to reconstruct the treescape of Los Angeles and surrounding communities, which is withering under a deadly confluence of invasive pests, prolonged drought and climate change.

An estimated 27 million trees are at risk of infestation in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including parts of the desert. That's roughly 38 percent of the 71 million trees in the 4,244-square-mile urban region with a population of about 20 million people.

The polyphagous shot hole borer and its cousin, the Kuroshio shot hole borer, are known to transmit a fatal fungal disease in 64 species of trees across Southern California, including willows, avocados, palo verdes, sycamores and Japanese maples.

The goldspotted oak borer has killed tens of thousands of drought-stressed oak trees from San Diego County to Los Angeles County. The aphid-size Asian citrus psyllid is transferring an incurable bacterial disease as it feasts on citrus leaves. Oleander leaf scorch is an incurable bacterial disease spread by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a flying insect. The South American palm weevil threatens palms throughout the region.

So far, state and local government agencies have been slow to react with plans to address the devastation, which stands to significantly change the way Southern California looks, feels and smells and the way Southern Californians live.

TNS

Oleanders show symptoms of leaf scorch, a bacterial disease transmitted by an insect called glass-winged sharpshooter, in South Pasadena, Calif., on April 25, 2017.

TNS

Ernesto Cousin is recycling on Green Street in Pasadena, Calif., on April 25, 2017. As he goes through the recyclables, he takes a moment to empty the water onto the base of the Ficus microcarpa tree. "I remember when all these trees were so thick and full of life you couldn't see the sky above them," he said.

TNS

Ernesto Cousin is recycling on Green Street in Pasadena, Calif., on April 25, 2017. As he goes through the recyclables, he takes a moment to empty the water onto the base of the Ficus microcarpa tree.

Part of the problem is a lack of knowledge about how many trees have been attacked and how likely it is that some species will rebound.

Methods to reduce the threat posed by the onslaught of pests, many of them new arrivals with poorly understood life cycles, are the focus of debates among research scientists, arborists and urban planners.

The Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, which is responsible for trees in the city's public right-of-ways, relies on a tree inventory compiled in 1996. It stopped planting trees in 2008 because of budget cuts, and it limits its services to removal of dead, dying or hazardous trees.

Yet without an accurate inventory, it is all but impossible for the agency to devise a plan to protect its trees from invasive, fast-spreading insects, according to a report conducted in 2015.

In San Diego County, officials contend green leaves on the sprouts of 144,000 willows in Tijuana River Valley Regional Park attacked by shot hole borer beetles last year show they are growing back at a fast pace.

Akif Eskalen, a plant pathologist at the University of California, Riverside, however, says that when those sprouts grow larger than 1 inch in diameter, the beetles will bore into them too.

Such disagreements, he said, can complicate efforts to obtain funding and approvals for research needed to develop a response to the devastating insect attacks.

The cost of removing and replacing the 27 million trees at risk of infestation by the most destructive threat, polyphagous shot hole borers, would exceed $36 billion if all were to die, according to a study by Greg McPherson, a research forester with the U.S. Forest Service.

Cities and counties spending heavily on removing troubled trees within their jurisdictions are prohibited from assisting private property owners, who must pay commercial operators an average of $1,000 per large tree to clear the deadwood.

Meanwhile, the race is on to develop new lists of trees that are less susceptible to invasive pests, prolonged drought and climate change.

The look of Southern California's green canopies has changed several times over the past two centuries. Untold numbers of native oaks and sycamores fell in the 1800s to ranchers eager to expand grazing land. In the 1950s and '60s, developers turned their noses up at those species, landscaping their subdivisions instead with huge numbers of nonnative trees, including palms, crape myrtles, olives and liquidambars, also known as American sweet gum.

This time around, planners hope to learn from the region's mistakes.

"We need to start dressing up our communities with trees suited for the future climate we are transitioning into," said Jonathan Parfrey, executive director of the environmental nonprofit Climate Resolve.

Sycamores, purple leaf plum, liquidambars and olive trees already have fallen off the list of trees recommended by City Plants, a city of Los Angeles agency that provides free trees to residents and plants street trees. Instead, it has increased plantings of black acacia, African sumac and Brisbane box trees, among other hardy species.

Turney, the plant pathologist, has made a habit of taking deliberately circuitous routes to work in the interest of making informal spot checks of the damage.

Some of the hardest hit areas include the city of Pasadena, home of the Rose Parade and winner of this year's "Tree City USA" honor by the National Arbor Day Foundation; Alhambra; Arcadia; Claremont; and South Pasadena, Turney said.

"I understand the concern in peoples' voices when they ask: 'How can I save my trees? What can I replace them with?'" Turney said.

Less than a mile from his home, Turney brought his car to an abrupt stop along a broad street median in Alhambra dominated by rows of ficus microcarpa more than 50 feet tall. "Let's go for a walk," he said.

Moments later, he was striding beneath the boughs of the trees that had lost most of their leaves from a fungal disease that had coated their branches with a sooty residue.

"Just a few years ago, this was one of the prettiest streets in California," he said. "Now, it's going to cost Alhambra a chunk of money to rip out all these trees. And once they're gone, nearby residents can expect to see their monthly electricity bills rise by 20 percent because it will be harder to keep their houses cool in summer without the shade."

In Alhambra's nearby historic and tidy Emery Park Hills neighborhood, Maria Luz, 66, like many of her neighbors, opted to save some money by paying a commercial arborist to trim, rather than remove, three 20-foot-tall liquidambars stricken with what she described as "a plague."

"The arborist said if we only trim, we could keep them around awhile longer," Luz said in Spanish. "Otherwise, it would have cost us $300 to remove each tree, plus more money to grind up the stumps."

A few miles away, in Pasadena, self-employed recycler Ernesto Cousin, 57, was methodically emptying the water remaining in plastic bottles he'd plucked out of local trash bins onto the base of a ficus tree.

"Looks like it could use some help," he said.

"I remember when all these trees were so thick and full of life you couldn't see the sky above them," he said. "Now, they don't look so good, and most people around here blame it on the drought. But it's not that. Something else is wrong.

"I'm going to help them in any way I can," he said, "until there's not one leaf left on their branches."

Life & Style

The last days of the Ringling Bros. circus

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—An elephant stretches its trunk through a window to soothe a sick child. A woman gives birth and three months later is back performing on the high wire. A handler of big cats weeps as the beasts lope out of the ring for the last time.

These stories could come only from circus performers, and in particular one famous circus, the one immortalized as "The Greatest Show on Earth": the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which is hanging its hat for the last time this weekend.

While the show goes on in other circuses around the world, Ringling is special. The size, the spectacle and the history—stretching back to P.T. Barnum and his traveling museum in the 1800s—set it apart.

One of Ringling's two traveling circuses is scheduled to perform its final show Sunday in New York. The other closed this month, in Providence, Rhode Island, and with it, the end to a way of life few others have experienced. The Associated Press was allowed to observe it extensively.

Ringling is the last circus anywhere to travel by train, and while living on a train can be tough, the accommodations are considered a benefit that other circuses don't offer. Perks include the "Pie Car," the mile-long train's dining operation, as well as a circus nursery and school for the many children whose parents make the circus what it is.

Some observations from the home the performers leave behind, from the unit's last circus baptism, their final times goofing around on "Clown Alley," and other moments the world will never see again:

■■■

THE BOSS CLOWN

One of Sandor Eke's earliest memories is of an elephant comforting him, stretching its trunk through his trailer window, while he lay recovering from illness.

Eke's Hungarian parents were performing at a circus in Sweden, and Eke was just a toddler. A few years later, he'd be a circus performer himself, and aspiring to come to America to join Ringling.

He got his wish 20 years ago, as an acrobat. Five years later, his colleagues told him he was funny and would make a good clown.

Now, at age 41, he's the Boss Clown, leader of the clowns on the unit. He's also dad to 2-year-old Michael, and they are enjoying the waning days here together.

"You have your own zoo. You can pet an elephant; you can play with the baby tigers," Eke says. "You have your own clowns. Everybody loves you. A circus is a very big family."

Someday, he plans to teach his son juggling and other circus skills.

Even so, Eke knows Michael may never join the circus.

Eke's wife, a former circus aerialist, has already established their new home in Las Vegas. When the circus closes, Eke hopes to get a job as a "flair" bartender there, doing tricks like juggling bottles.

He wonders how life will change.

"My normal life is this. My normal life is going on the train, going every week to a different city," Eke says. "It's crazy how much I love circus."

Knowing it's coming to an end has been difficult for his fellow performers and crew, and Eke been spending his time trying to make his circus family laugh.

"I don't stop until they smile," he says. "And I do everything. I don't care if I have to dive into a trash can. That's how I want to be remembered. And that's how I want to remember myself. I'm going to go and cry. But I'm going to be happy."

■■■

SEND OUT THE CLOWNS

Ivan Vargas likes to say his parents fell in love with the air.

He is sixth-generation circus. His mother performed on the high wire when they met, his father on the trapeze.

Vargas was born between two Ringling Bros. shows in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1990. His father managed to perform in the early show, then made it across the street to the hospital — in costume — for his son's birth.

Vargas is part of Clown Alley. It's not just a place. In one sense, it's the private area backstage where clowns get ready to perform. But it's also how the clowns refer to themselves, a mini-fraternity within the circus, and a microcosm of it.

There's Brian Wright, a circus superfan, of sorts. He was 4 years old when he saw his first Ringling show, and he knew that's what he wanted to do.

The Brooklyn, New York, native auditioned three times before finally landing a job as a clown. Now he keeps a book he likes to call the "Clown Bible," which, after four years at Ringling, is now filled with memories, thoughts and jokes he collects when he meets a former clown.

And there are Nick Lambert and Stephen Craig, neither of whom gave a thought to joining the circus until they were out of college. They ended up here because of their love of acting.

Lambert has a plan for his last hours on the circus train, before he heads back to his hometown of Albion, Illinois.

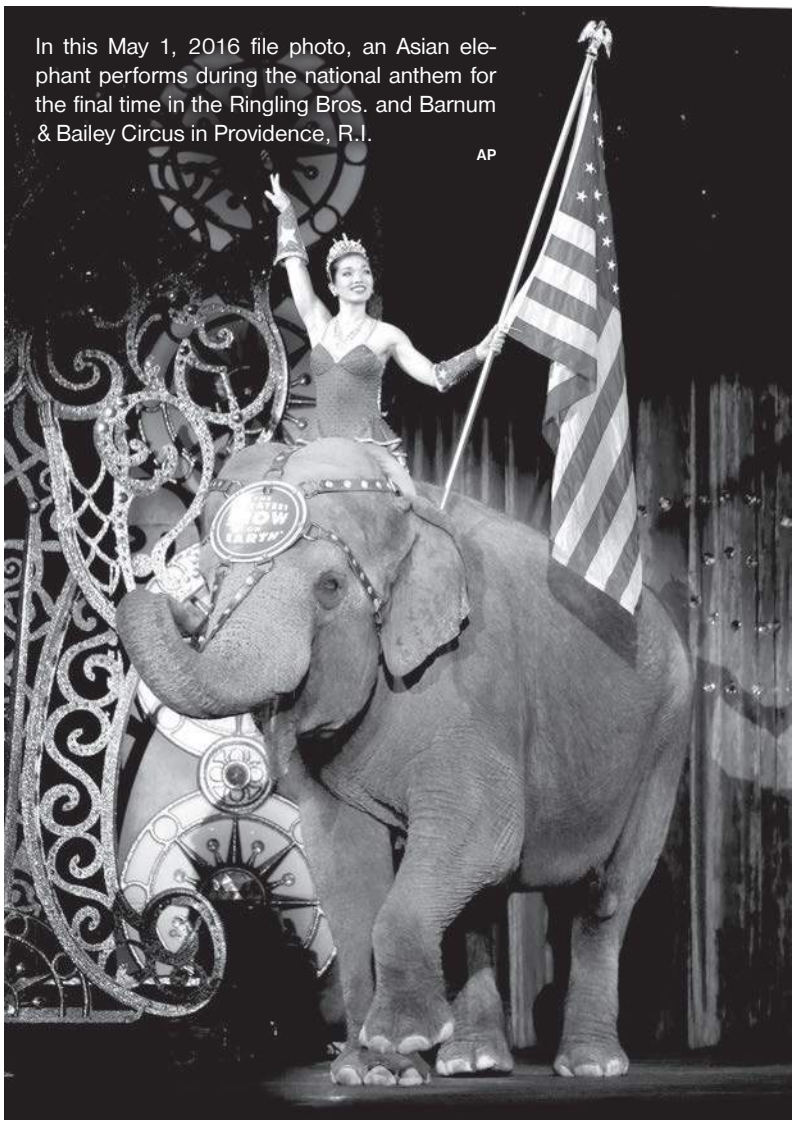
The morning after the last performance, he'll sit in his compartment on the train and open up a cabinet. There, clowns from years past have written their names, shows and years they performed with Ringling.

"I'll get to add my name to the door," he says. "I'm the last one in this room before it is all gone."

■■■

RESTRICTED BY THE LIFE

Quarters on the circus train can be tight. Some cabins are so small, you



In this May 1, 2016 file photo, an Asian elephant performs during the national anthem for the final time in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Providence, R.I. AP

can touch opposite walls with outstretched arms. Many travelers are stuck in their rooms while the train is moving because the only exit is to the outside.

Take Jeannie Hamilton. She has been with the circus 12 years, most recently as manager of concessions.

While people talk about running away with the circus as a way to break free, Hamilton said she sometimes felt constrained — either stuck at the arena or stuck on the train.

The train moves much slower than an Amtrak, or even a Honda. Its final run traveled a circuitous route from Hartford, Connecticut, through Springfield and Worcester, Massachusetts, to Providence, Rhode Island.

The trip took half a day. By car, the 65-mile distance could be covered in less than two hours. The train cars are, for the most part, being sold, and many have already been auctioned.

So, Hamilton decided to spend that last trip soaking it all in.

"Anytime the train was moving, I was on the vestibule," she said, referring to the small standing area between train cars. "Now that it's coming to an end, I was trying to enjoy every minute of it."

Hamilton would smile, wave and take pictures as she passed by people who had come out to say their final goodbyes to the Ringling train, yell "thank you" and applaud.

"Got a lump in my throat," Hamilton says, "every time I saw them."

■■■

A CIRCUS BAPTISM

Behind Clown Alley, in the depths of the arena, a small group of performers and crew hastily assembles for a baptism.

Six-year-old Eddie Strickland is led in by his father, Jimmie, who has been with the circus for 20-some years.

The Rev. Jerry Hogan, of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Circus and Traveling Shows Ministry, is ready in his vestments, made by the costume department from old elephant blankets and decorated with sequined clown faces, crosses and animal prints.

Heavy equipment rolls by, and people walk through on their way to the bathroom, some pausing for a bit to watch.

Father Jerry, as he is known, blesses water taken from the tap a few moments ago, then pours some on Eddie's head.

"Eddie, you're going to be famous. This is the last baptism celebration on Ringling's show in 146 years," he tells the boy.

Father Jerry has been a mainstay for the circus family, marrying many of them in happy times and ministering to them through tragedy.

"I just wanted it to be done by Father Jerry," Strickland says. "I've known him for a long time, and I'm happy."

■■■

BIRTH ON A WIRE (OR CLOSE TO IT)

Being a circus performer takes commitment, discipline and athleticism, qualities Anna Lebedeva exhibits when she balances on the high wire with her husband, Mustafa Danguir.

She executes her tricks so effortlessly, it's hard to believe she had a baby three months ago.

It was important to her to perform in Ringling Bros.' last shows, she says, and she pushed herself to get back in condition after their son, Amir, was born.

"I'm really happy to have a chance to finish this. It's been seven years for us," she says. "This is just history, you know?"

Danguir is the first in his family to perform in the circus. He was discovered doing acrobatic tricks as a child in Tangier, Morocco, and invited to circus school. Lebedeva, originally from Moscow, is sixth-generation circus.

They married last year, 30 feet up on the high wire, while the show was in Houston.

Now, they'll move back to Europe. Danguir will appear as a finalist Saturday on the TV show "Arabs Got Talent."

The couple dreams of starting their own show, or maybe opening a circus school in Morocco to teach future generations. They're optimistic something good will come along.

"We are artists," Danguir says. "We are survivors."

■■■

THE CURTAIN CLOSES

The tiger presenter weeps as he ends his act with the big cats.

The animals are owned by Feld Entertainment, which owns Ringling, and Tabayara Maluenda has to say goodbye.

The animals will be sent to a center that specializes in tigers, according to a Feld spokesman. Years of protests by animal rights groups are among the things that took their toll on the circus in recent years, along with declining attendance and changing public tastes.

As Maluenda wipes away tears during their last appearance together, he thanks each animal individually as it leaves the ring. One, he embraces and kisses — the first tiger Feld got for him when he joined Ringling 13 years ago, one he raised it from its days as a cub.

Finally, after the aerialists, strongmen, the human cannonball and the BMX bikes have all done their tricks, it's over. The ringmaster calls out the families of the performers and crew to join them on the arena floor for a final thank-you.

Among them are "Boss Clown" Sandor Eke and his son.

In a few days, the two will fly back to Hungary to visit family before their permanent move to Las Vegas. Eke is planning to visit a circus he has heard about there.

"Any time I have a chance to see a circus," he says, "I will be there."

But tonight, he stands on the arena floor one last time, holds his son in his arms, and cries.

'Roseanne' returning to ABC, Katy Perry to join 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Roseanne," one of TV's rare working-class comedies, will return to ABC two decades after it wrapped its hit run and with star Roseanne Barr and the rest of the cast intact, the network said Tuesday in announcing its 2017-18 season plans.

"The Conners' joys and struggles are as relevant—and hilarious—today as they were then, and there's really no one better to comment on our modern America than Roseanne," ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said in a statement. The original series wrapped its nine-season run in 1997.

AP

In this undated image released by ABC, shows the cast members of "Roseanne," Michael Fishman as DJ Conner, seated from left, Roseanne Barr as Roseanne Barr, John Goodman as Dan Conner, and second row from left, Sara Gilbert as Darlene Conner, Alicia Goranson as Becky Conner and Laurie Metcalf as Jackie Harris. The original cast of "Roseanne" will return to ABC two decades after it wrapped its hit series, the network said Tuesday in announcing its 2017-18 season plans.

Besides Barr as the Conner family matriarch, the eight-episode reboot airing in 2018 will feature John Goodman as her husband, Dan, along with former co-stars Sara Gilbert, Laurie Metcalf, Michael Fishman and Lecy Goranson. Sarah Chalke, who played Goranson's character, Becky, in later seasons, will appear in another role, ABC said. The five cast members appeared onstage at Lincoln Center during ABC's presentation to advertisers on Tuesday.

"I'm happy to be back," Barr said. "We did this show for years and thought we were done talking. But we found out we have a whole lot more to say."

The network also announced plans for a new "Grey's Anatomy" spinoff. Set in a Seattle firehouse, the untitled drama, to be executive produced by Shonda Rhimes, has no air date.

ABC's lineup next season will be heavy on high-concept dramas and include one familiar reality series, "American Idol," which the network called a "perfect fit" despite the lagging ratings and high costs that brought it to an end at Fox. She announced Tuesday afternoon that Katy Perry will join as one of the show's judges.

Dungey defended the network's decision to air the singing contest in 2018, one day after Fox executives said they passed on a quick reboot as "extremely fraudulent" in light of the big farewell it got just a year ago.

Fiancee says Aaron Hernandez denied rumors he was gay

BOSTON (AP)—Former NFL player Aaron Hernandez said rumors that he was gay or bisexual were not true, his former fiancee said in an interview on the "Dr. Phil" show that aired Tuesday.

Shayanna Jenkins-Hernandez made the remark during the second part of a two-part interview with host Dr. Phillip McGraw. The first part aired on Monday.

Jenkins-Hernandez said Hernandez denied the rumors during a conversation she had with him about his sexuality. She said Hernandez was "very much a man" to her and called the rumors "embarrassing" and "hurtful."

"If that was him, I wouldn't fault him for that. ... We're in 2017. There are so many people that are coming out," she said.

Jenkins-Hernandez said in the part of the interview that aired Monday that she doesn't think the former New England Patriots tight end killed himself last month, as authorities have said. She said he was upbeat in their last telephone conversation before he was found hanged and that there was no indication he was suicidal.

She said in the Tuesday segment that there was a suicide note for her and one for their daughter, but there was no note addressed to Hernandez's fellow prisoner Kyle Kennedy.

Jenkins-Hernandez also said she doesn't believe Hernandez and Kennedy were lovers or even close friends. Hernandez didn't talk about him, she said.

A lawyer for Kennedy has said Kennedy was "stunned and saddened" by Hernandez's death and that the two had requested to be cellmates last year but the request was denied. He said Kennedy considered Hernandez a close friend.

The death of Hernandez, who grew up in Bristol, Connecticut, and played football at the University of Florida, came days after he was acquitted in a 2012 Boston double slaying.

He already was in prison, serving a life sentence in the 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, the boyfriend of Jenkins-Hernandez's sister. A judge recently erased the murder conviction because Hernandez died before a ruling was issued on his appeal.

Jenkins-Hernandez said she was thrilled when the conviction was voided.

"That's how it should have always been," she said.

Playboy centerfold model loses bid to dismiss gym photo case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Playboy model lost an effort to dismiss a criminal charge for taking a photo of a naked 71-year-old woman at a gym and posting it on social media with disparaging remarks about the woman's body.

A judge ruled Monday against Dani Mathers in Los Angeles Superior Court in her bid to toss a misdemeanor count of invasion of privacy.

Mathers, 30, has acknowledged—and apologized for—taking the photo at an LA Fitness club and posting it on Snapchat in July with the caption: "If I can't unsee this then you can't either."

The 2015 Playmate of the Year quickly became the target of online venom for the so-called body shaming incident. Her lawyers said she meant to send the photo privately to a friend and inadvertently posted it publicly.

Mathers' career as a model and radio host has been destroyed by the incident, defense lawyers said. Mathers, who has no criminal record, has offered to make amends by using her notoriety to bring attention to the issue of body shaming.

Prosecutors have pushed for a conviction on the charge and four weeks of community service with a road crew, according to court papers. She's shown no remorse and "should face the consequences of her cruel and criminal act," Deputy City Attorney Chadd Kim said.

The defense unsuccessfully tried to get the case thrown out on the theory the law was vague about how "identifiable" a victim needs to be.

Attorney Dana Cole said the victim cannot be easily identified because the photo was shot from far away. He said it took considerable effort for Los Angeles police and the gym to identify the woman, who has not been named.

Kim called the argument a "leap of illogic."

Judge Gustavo Sztraicher said the law was valid and allowed the case to proceed. A pretrial hearing is scheduled May 24.

Mom weighs telling her son truth about dad's 'time away'

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Jimmy," is 8. His father and I are divorced, and he is facing jail time. Jimmy sees him every other weekend. I'm planning on telling Jimmy the truth, although I'm sure his dad will want me to lie and say he needs to "work out of town" for a while, or something like that.

I know it will be hard for my boy to deal with. I also wonder what he should tell other people. I worry that if he tells his friends the truth (and they tell their parents), Jimmy might not be invited over to play quite as often, or kids will tease him. But I feel like it's sending a mixed message if I tell him it's OK to lie about this particular issue. How should I handle this?

TO TELL THE TRUTH

DEAR TRUTH: Jimmy needs to know that his mother tells the truth. If you lie to him about this, or anything else for that matter, when he learns the truth—as he will eventually—he will start to question the veracity of everything you have told him. This is a lot for an 8-year-old to deal with, I know, but I vote for keeping the boy informed.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for two months. I think I'm being too clingy, but he won't tell me if I am. He says when I ask for reassurance, it drives him away.

Every time we do anything remotely sexual, he tells me he feels guilty about it. He is sweet and caring. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. I have never been so in love. I don't want to lose him. What should I do?

IN LOVE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR IN LOVE: This may seem counterintuitive, but take a step back. Stop asking for reassurance. Because he says he feels guilty about doing anything remotely sexual, the next time he makes a move, be less willing. Tell him you don't want him to do anything that he will be sorry about later, and remind him what he said the last time. It may improve your relationship because, from your description, he appears to be immature and not ready for a romance.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is very ill and is preparing for the end. I feel bad for my spouse—this will be a great loss. However, my mother-in-law and I have never been close. She has been very negative about me, mostly behind my back. I have tolerated her and complained only to my spouse.

When the end comes, I know many people will express sympathy for "my loss." I won't be feeling remorse, but a sense of relief. Is there a kind way of stating that it is not a sad time for me because of our strained relationship?

THE END IS NEAR

DEAR END: Much as you might like to express those feelings publicly, I don't advise it. It would be inappropriate and reflect badly on you. If someone offers condolences, say, "Thank you, how kind of you," and keep the rest to yourself. If you do otherwise, you will be validating every bad thing that woman said behind your back.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

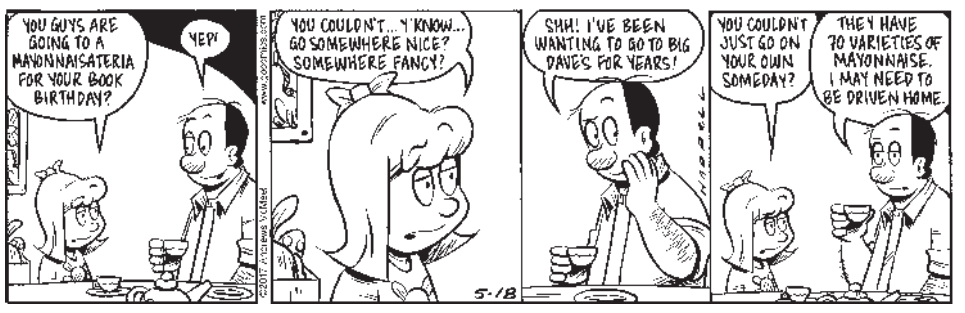
WELL, YOUR HAIR DOESN'T STICK UP THE WAY IT USED TO, BUT AT LEAST YOUR HEAD'S YELLOW AGAIN.
THANKS, HOBBES. YOU'RE A REAL LIFE SAVER. I'M SORRY I GOT SO MAD AT YOU.
NONSENSE. NO HARM DONE.
BOY, WAIT TILL I SHOW MOM!
UH OH. DOES IT COME OFF?
FROM NOW ON, JUST KEEP YOUR BRAINY IDEAS TO YOURSELF. OK?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO A MAYONNAISATERIA FOR YOUR BOOK BIRTHDAY?
YEP!
YOU COULDN'T... Y'KNOW... GO SOMEWHERE NICE? SOMEWHERE FANCY?
SHH! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO TO BIG DAVE'S FOR YEARS!
YOU COULDN'T JUST GO ON YOUR OWN SOMEDAY?
THEY HAVE 70 VARIETIES OF MAYONNAISE. I MAY NEED TO BE DRIVEN HOME.
5-18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pile
5 Columbo portrayer
9 Deity
12 Pac-12 team
13 — arms
14 Lawyers' gp.
15 Flying alone
17 Do wrong
18 Schedules
19 Squander
21 Concerning
22 Singer Jackson
24 Like custard
27 Texter's chuckle
28 Lariat
31 Marseilles monarch
32 Approves
33 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
34 Cushy
36 Old Oldsmobile
37 Steerer's place
38 Stunning gun
40 Old pronoun
41 Enthusiasm
43 Praline nuts
47 Blond shade
48 Mideast region
51 Zodiac cat
52 Seize
53 Grooving on
54 Recipe abbr.
55 Village People hit
56 Price

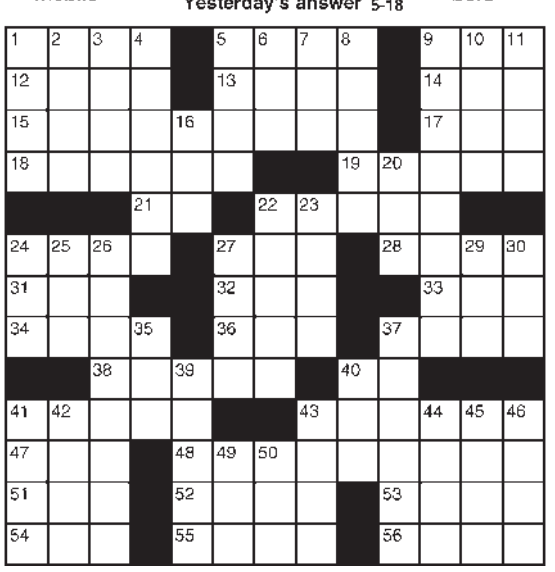
DOWN

1 Embraces
2 Earth Day subj.
3 Others (Lat.)
4 Kitchen adjunct
5 Ado
6 Mil. address
7 Like Abner
8 Recognized
9 Kitchen appliance
10 Life story
11 Hamlet, e.g.
16 "Gosh!"
20 — Lingus
22 Wild card, often
23 Too
24 Triage ctrs.
25 Sticky stuff
26 Souvenir seller
27 Traditional tales
29 Chum
30 Shade tree
35 Make lace
37 Frenzied
39 Waterlogged
40 "Certainly!"
41 John in "Atlas Shrugged"
42 Exploits
43 Sunscreen additive
44 Florence's river
45 Little lice
46 Espy
49 Branch
50 Efron of "Neighbors"

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	L	M	■	S	E	W	■	I	D	L	E
A	S	E	A	■	P	R	O	■	N	E	A	L
S	T	E	M	W	A	R	E	■	A	L	D	A
T	A	F	M	A	C	■	■	S	R	A	E	L
■	■	■	A	S	K	■	S	H	A	W	■	■
B	A	H	■	P	L	Y	■	A	G	A	V	E
I	R	A	S	■	E	O	S	■	E	R	A	S
C	A	R	T	A	■	O	H	M	■	E	T	E
■	■	D	A	N	G	■	O	A	F	■	■	■
C	O	W	P	E	A	■	O	R	A	T	E	D
E	T	A	L	■	S	O	F	T	W	A	R	E
L	O	R	E	■	U	R	L	■	N	I	N	E
T	E	E	S	■	P	R	Y	■	S	L	E	D

Yesterday's answer 5-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Fey, 47; George Strait, 65; Reggie Jackson, 71; Robert Morse, 86.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let emotional stubbornness take over. Comparing what you have to what others have is self-destructive. Aim to maintain what you have and to reach a balanced lifestyle that encourages you to make more time to do the things you enjoy rather than accumulating things that are costly and take up your time. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 27, 33, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Personal gains can be made if you are willing to change your direction or the way you approach what you are currently doing. Discussing future plans with someone you love will help to bring greater stability into your life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get a better sense of your surroundings and what's important to you. Question what makes you happy and what weighs you down. Look for opportunities that allow you to grow personally, professionally or spiritually. Redefine your priorities and your life goals. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep a steady pace and stay focused on the end result. Whatever you put your mind to will lead you to success. New beginnings will entice you once you feel free to explore what life has to offer. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Whatever you need to get done can be handled discreetly. Keeping personal secrets until you are certain you can accomplish what you set out to do will spare you the anxiety that comes with lacking knowledge and experience. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Emotional matters will affect your work. Map out what you need to accomplish and don't stop until you know you have done enough to avoid complaints. A personal pick-me-up will make you look and feel better. A romantic gesture is encouraged. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Alterations to how you live may seem impossible initially, but in the end, the results will be to your benefit. Learn to go with the flow and respond positively to matters and you'll discover how capable you are. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn all you can from the experiences you encounter. Dealing with the elderly people in your life will give you insight into a situation that you face. Innocent comments offered will be more insightful than you realize. Read between the lines. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You will be able to convince someone to share if you are willing to compromise as well. Disagreeing or being stubborn will be a waste of time. Offer what you are willing to do and see what transpires. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Bring about positive changes at home and at work by paying close attention to details. Staying on top of facts and not going over budget will help you reach the finish line without any delays. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Not so fast. You wouldn't jump off a bridge because someone else did, so don't comply with something that you don't agree with. Show control, moderation and the ability to say "no," and you will avoid making a mistake. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put some muscle behind your plans. Making improvements at home or to the way you present who you are and what you can do will lead to tempting offers. Don't look back when there is so much ahead of you. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put some energy into your gait and show the world you have what it takes to be great. Self-improvement projects will help you grow and give you confidence to forge ahead with the stamina and courage required to excel. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, innovative and controversial. You are intentional and frank.

Eugenia's websites – eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		8	4		2	9
						4		7
1							3	
				3	9			8
7								2
2			8	6				
	5							3
8		3						
4	9		7	5		1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	4	2	5	6	9	3	1	7
6	5	7	4	1	3	2	8	9
3	9	1	2	7	8	6	5	4
9	8	5	6	2	7	1	4	3
2	3	6	1	9	4	8	7	5
7	1	4	8	3	5	9	2	6
1	7	8	9	5	6	4	3	2
4	6	3	7	8	2	5	9	1
5	2	9	3	4	1	7	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/17

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

VOLCANOLOGISTS Solution: 5 letters

S	S	S	A	M	P	L	E	S	E	A	R	T	H	S
T	P	T	H	T	V	E	N	T	T	E	B	D	E	E
R	R	E	E	E	C	I	D	N	I	W	A	I	R	T
O	S	E	C	A	A	E	E	M	I	T	S	N	U	I
M	E	N	M	T	M	R	J	C	A	M	A	A	P	L
B	S	E	S	O	R	O	S	E	I	L	L	E	S	L
O	Y	T	D	U	R	O	N	C	A	M	T	L	U	E
L	L	L	C	E	B	S	M	I	O	K	U	E	B	T
I	A	O	M	S	C	A	C	E	T	R	C	P	M	A
A	N	M	E	I	G	A	R	O	T	O	I	O	A	S
N	A	R	E	M	L	U	R	T	L	E	R	A	R	E
H	V	N	A	G	S	E	Ⓐ	Ⓥ	Ⓐ	Ⓛ	R	I	I	S
E	C	T	B	S	T	E	P	H	R	A	E	S	N	A
E	I	U	I	A	P	H	R	E	A	T	I	C	E	G
C	S	F	W	O	L	F	R	A	G	M	E	N	T	S

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/18

Analyses, Basalt, Collect, Current, Data, Dome, Earth, Ejecta, Fissure, Flow, Fragments, Gases, Hammer, Lava, Magmatic, Molten, Monitoring, Observe, Pelean, Phreatic, Pumice, Rock, Samples, Satellites, Science, Scoria, Seismic, Shear, Spectrometers, Stain, Steam, Strombolian, Subglacial, Submarine, Tephra, Time, Tremors, Vent, Water, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Congress

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: May 10, 2017
Closing Date: June 8, 2017

Position: **Accountant I**
Salary: **PL 29-1, $21,506.41 to PL 29-4, $24,889.35 per annum**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 8, 2017, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than June 8, 2017, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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RE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: May 17, 2017
Closing Date: June 15, 2017

Position: **Accounting Clerk**
Salary: **PL 23/01 – $16,651.51 to PL 23/05 - $20,234.11 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 15, 2017, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than June 15, 2017, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: http://www.marianas.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement No. 17-024

Position Title:	**Extension Aide II**
Department:	Cooperative Research & Extension Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step:	22/Step 01
Annual Salary:	$26,773.63
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: May 10, 2017	Closing Date: May 21, 2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-027

Position Title:	**Administrative Manager I**
Department:	Liberal Arts Program/Academic Programs & Services Division
Pay Level & Step:	20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary:	$24,330.79 - $25,182.37
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: May 10, 2017	Closing Date: May 21, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 17-025

Position Title:	**Archivist**
Department:	Library Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step:	34/01 – 34/02
Annual Salary:	$47,534.95 - $49,198.68
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: May 10, 2017	Closing Date: May 21, 2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement II No. 17-026

Position Title:	**Instructor, Health & Physical Education**
Department:	Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics
Pay Level & Step:	32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary:	$41,527.83 - $42,981.30
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: May 10, 2017	Closing Date: May 21, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Sales Associate, Full Time (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com .
To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on May 23, 2017.**
Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

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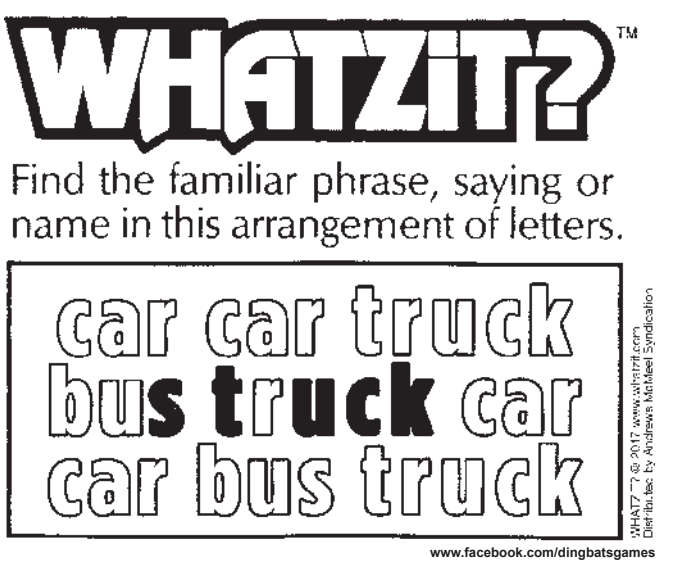
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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Warriors trounce Spurs without Leonard for 2-0 lead

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Steve Kerr provided a strong message, just not from his usual spot on the bench: Play with urgency from the opening tip this time.

The Golden State Warriors did just that for their ailing coach watching from the locker room, and left Gregg Popovich questioning and criticizing his Spurs players for a lack of belief and feeling sorry for themselves without injured superstar Kawhi Leonard.

Stephen Curry had 29 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in three quarters and the Warriors trounced on the short-handed Spurs, running away from San Antonio for a 136-100 rout Tuesday night and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Kevin Durant added 16 points and Draymond Green provided another impressive all-around performance with 13 points, nine rebounds, six assists, two steals and two blocks. Rookie Patrick McCaw had 18 points and five assists off the bench shooting 6 for 8 as Golden State earned its second-most lopsided postseason victory ever to go to 10-0.

"That's just been the message all year, just play with urgency and start the game off with some energy and throw the first punch," Durant said. "Unlike Game 1 we did that tonight. We know they're a little undermanned but they still play extremely hard, so we knew we couldn't come out here and relax and think they were just going to give us the game. We had to go take it."

The 36-point Warriors' win is second to a 39-point victory for Philadelphia at St. Louis on April 6, 1948.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green, bottom left, works for a rebound against San Antonio Spurs' Pau Gasol (16) during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Tuesday, May 16, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

Jonathon Simmons scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half as the lone bright spot for the Spurs.

"It looked pretty collective to me. I don't think it was one guy who didn't believe and he infected everybody else or anything like that. As a group they just let themselves down," Popovich said. "The truth always quote-unquote sets you free. You can't sugarcoat it or say 'if we had just made a couple shots we'd have been right there. That's pretty lame. So, call it like it is. We didn't come to play. We felt sorry for ourselves. We need to get slapped and come back and play Game 3 and see who we are."

Leonard re-injured his left ankle in Sunday's 113-111 Game 1 loss after coming down on Zaza Pachulia's foot. Popovich on Monday called out the Warriors starting center for the "dangerous" and "unsportsmanlike" closeout—which had Pachulia insisting he is not a dirty player, was only playing hard, and felt badly that the All-Star forward was injured.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday in San Antonio.

Pachulia left the game injured for a Warriors team already without key reserve forward Andre Iguodala, held out because of soreness in his left knee that limited him to 10 minutes in Game 1.

An X-ray on Pachulia's bruised right heel was clear but he was scheduled for an MRI on Wednesday.

Golden State quickly established its pass-happy, up-tempo style to take the Spurs out from the opening tip. It was a drastic difference from a game of catch-up two days earlier when the Warriors rallied from 25 down and a 20-point halftime deficit.

The bench contributed a season-best 63 points.

"They came out with a sense of urgency from the beginning and they played that way for 48 minutes," acting Warriors coach Mike Brown said.

Klay Thompson, still struggling to find his steady shooting touch, had 11 points, six rebounds and four assists. The Warriors had 39 assists—the most by any team this postseason—including 30 on their initial 38 baskets.

Shaun Livingston scored in double figures for the first time this postseason with 10 points for Golden State.

Simmons started in Leonard's place and made 6 of 9 shots to begin the game while the rest of the Spurs were 3 for 22.

Nearly arrested? Mike Brown was just trying to get to Game 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Acting Warriors coach Mike Brown had a legitimate excuse for his late arrival at Oracle Arena for Game 2 of the Western Conference finals: seems he just avoided getting arrested right outside.

Brown was driving behind the Spurs team bus at a freeway exit as he was driving his son Cam—a huge fan of Spurs coach Gregg Popovich_and a couple of friends in his SUV on Tuesday. Initially, Brown was ushered through several red lights without having to stop, but then multiple officers on motorcycles yelled for Brown to hold up.

Even after he offered this:

"I'm like, 'Warriors acting coach,'" he said, pointing to the logo on his shirt. "He's like: 'I don't care. Hey you, stop!'"

At his final red light before reaching the gates to the stadium parking lots, Brown's luck ran out.

"I'm like, 'This is great, I didn't have to stop for any of these red lights,'" Brown said. "So I literally start to go and I'm going to get in the far left lane to go through where we all go through, and a cop out of nowhere pulls in front of me and goes, 'Hey you, stop! ... So I'm like feeling myself a little bit. I'm like, 'Hey, I'm being bullied by Oakland PD or San Francisco PD in my own building, my own parking lot.' So I start to go a little bit and another one pulls up: 'Hey, you, you heard him, stop!'

"So I'm like, OK. (They're) on motorcycles, right? If I scoot a little closer, they'll get a little scared, because I know I'd get scared. I start scooting forward. And then an SUV pulls up, and I hear them over the loud speaker: 'Hey, you, in the Range Rover, stop! Right now! You heard the officer! Stop! So then I got scared. I'm like I've got five cops around me, so I just stopped.

"I said, 'I'm trying to get to the game.' So I let the bus go, and the 18 cops, and I'm going around behind the bus."

Once the Spurs got by, Brown's phone rang with a familiar caller ID—"Gregg Popovich, San Antonio Spurs."

"So I answer the phone and Pop is dying. He goes, 'Mike, I didn't know that was you,'" Brown recalled. "He goes: 'I'm sitting here and I see this black Range Rover, I see all these cops surrounding them. I see the car trying to inch forward, I'm like, 'He's about to get arrested.' I said, 'Pop, this is my own building.' He goes, 'I know, when I saw it was you, I died laughing.'"

Popovich chuckled about it before the game.

"Somebody's got to teach him if the California Highway Patrol tells you to move, you move over," Popovich cracked. "He didn't do that. But it was funny. They did a great job, by the way, getting us here. It was pretty cool to watch them. Everybody's getting out of the way wondering what's going on. It was much easier than normal."

Brown said he did the right thing by just cooperating.

"I stopped, I did what they asked me to and I let them take care of San Antonio," Brown said. "We got here just in time. Now I'm here."

Celtics win NBA draft lottery, Lakers at No. 2 keep pick

NEW YORK (AP)—The Boston Celtics have won the NBA draft lottery, capitalizing on a trade they made with the Brooklyn Nets four years ago.

The Los Angeles Lakers were other big winners, moving up one spot to second to hold onto their pick. They would have had to trade it to Philadelphia if it fell outside the top three.

The Celtics will go from No. 1 seed to No. 1 pick after their 25 percent chance of winning came through Tuesday night. They open the Eastern Conference finals at home on Wednesday against Cleveland.

Brooklyn finished with the worst record in the league but the Celtics had the right to swap picks with them from the 2013 draft-night trade that sent Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to the Nets.

The 76ers will pick third, while Phoenix fell two spots and is fourth.

The Celtics were going to be in prime position no matter how the Ping-Pong balls bounced in a hotel ballroom Tuesday. They were guaranteed no worse than the No. 4 pick to add to a team that had the best record in the East this season. And they still get one more first-round pick next season from the Nets, who likely will miss the playoffs again.

Boston acquired the Nets' 2014, 2016 and 2018 first-round picks in the deal.

Their victory made it three straight years the team with the best odds has won the lottery, after going the previous decade without a victory. Minnesota snapped that streak by getting eventual Rookie of the Year Karl-Anthony Towns in 2015 and Philadelphia emerged with Ben Simmons last season.

The draft is considered a strong one, loaded with point guards such as Markelle Fultz, Lonzo Ball and De'Aaron Fox.

And the Lakers will get a chance to take one of them after beating the odds to move up in their first year with Hall of Famer Magic Johnson as their team president. They had about a 53 percent chance of falling out of the top three, which would have triggered a trade of the pick as remaining payment of their acquisition of Steve Nash in 2012.

Not only that, but they would have had to trade their 2019 first-round pick to Orlando if that happened, so Johnson was all smiles even after finishing behind the rival Celtics.

Chicago Cubs beat Cincinnati Reds, 9-5

AP

Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon greets Anthony Rizzo after Rizzo's home run during the eighth inning on Tuesday. The Cubs' 9-5 win is Maddon's 1,000th in the majors.

CHICAGO (AP)—Slumping sluggers Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Schwarber homered, rookie Ian Happ connected again and the Chicago Cubs beat the Cincinnati Reds 9-5 on Tuesday.

Happ hit his second homer in his third major league game and Addison Russell also went deep as Chicago returned to .500 after a lackluster road trip. NL MVP Kris Bryant added two hits in his first appearance after missing three games with an illness.

The Cubs (19-19) had dropped seven of nine, including four of their last six at division leaders Colorado and St. Louis. Schwarber's continued trouble in the leadoff spot and the shaky performance so far by the rotation had created some angst for a fan base expecting more of the same after Chicago's historic World Series championship last year, but no one seemed a bit worried around the team.

Willson Contreras had two hits and two RBIs, and John Lackey (4-3) pitched into the sixth inning in the opener of a 10-game homestand.

Joey Votto, Zack Cozart and Tucker Barnhart homered for Cincinnati on a warm and windy night at Wrigley Field. But Bronson Arroyo (3-3) was hit hard in five innings, allowing five runs and eight hits.

Rangers 5, Phillies 1

In Arlington, Texas, Yu Darvish struck out nine over seven solid innings and Texas beat Philadelphia to stretch the majors' longest active winning streak to seven games.

Nomar Mazara had a solo homer in the first, and Mike Napoli hit a two-run shot in the eighth. Napoli, who came in hitting .165, went 3 for 3.

Darvish (4-2) allowed four hits and two walks. He preserved a two-run lead by striking out Brock Stassi with runners at first and second after he allowed his only run on an RBI single by Freddy Galvis in the seventh inning.

Phillies starter Jared Eickhoff (0-4) struck out eight and allowed seven hits in his first career start against the franchise that drafted him in 2011.

Orioles 13, Tigers 11, 13 innings

In Detroit, Chris Davis homered in the 12th inning and again in the 13th, and Baltimore finally held on after the second one.

Davis led off the 12th with a home run that started a three-run inning for the Orioles, but Detroit rallied with three of its own in the bottom half to keep the game going. Davis came up again with a runner on third in the 13th and hit a two-run shot off Francisco Rodriguez (1-5) that gave Baltimore the lead for good.

The Orioles led 7-1 after scoring seven runs in the third, but they squandered that big advantage and needed Mark Trumbo's solo shot with two outs in the ninth just to force extra innings. Baltimore snapped a four-game losing streak.

Richard Bleier (1-1) earned his first career win.

Astros 12, Marlins 2

In Miami, unbeaten ace Dallas Keuchel became the first seven-game winner in the majors despite pitching only five innings, his shortest outing this season, and Houston beat swooning Miami.

Jake Marisnick tripled his season RBI total to six with a pair of two-run homers against his former team, both caroming off the home run sculpture at Marlins Park. Brian McCann also had four RBIs.

Keuchel allowed two runs, both in the first inning, and threw 70 pitches before departing with a 10-2 lead. His ERA rose to 1.84.

Tom Koehler (1-2) gave up eight runs in three innings, inflating his ERA to 7.04.

Nationals 8, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Bryce Harper belted his 13th home run, Ryan Zimmerman smacked a two-run double to add to his major league-leading RBI total and Washington held off struggling Pittsburgh.

Harper's laser to the last row of seats in right field in the ninth gave the 24-year-old star a home run in every ballpark in the National League. He finished with two hits to move ahead of Zimmerman for the major league-lead in batting average (.388).

Stephen Strasburg (4-1) allowed three runs in six-plus innings, walking one and striking out three on a night he didn't have his best stuff.

Josh Harrison had two hits for the Pirates, including his sixth home run of the season, and also avoided a tag at second base with an acrobatic slide in the sixth. Chad Kuhl (1-4) remained winless since the first week of the season.

Rockies 7, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Charlie Blackmon hit a towering two-run homer during a four-run sixth inning and finished with three hits to lead Colorado over Minnesota.

Blackmon had three RBIs, Gerardo Parra added a solo homer and Kyle Freeland pitched six innings as first-place Colorado earned its 12th win in 17 road games.

Freeland (4-2) allowed three runs, five hits and four walks while striking out three. Greg Holland recorded his 17th save in 17 chances after Minnesota put two runners on in the ninth against Chris Rusin.

Byron Buxton hit a solo homer for the Twins, but Phil Hughes (4-2) had another disappointing outing. He gave up five runs, eight hits and a walk in five innings.

Angels 7, White Sox 6

In Anaheim, California, Cameron Maybin had five hits, including a tying double in the 11th inning, and Albert Pujols singled home the winning run moments later to give Los Angeles a victory over Chicago.

Chicago erased a three-run deficit in the ninth and went ahead 6-5 on Tim Anderson's solo homer in the 11th off Yusmeiro Petit (1-0). But it was the Angels who pulled off the final comeback.

Andrelton Simmons singled leading off the bottom half against closer David Robertson (2-1), and Ben Revere singled with one out. Maybin, batting leadoff for the first time with the Angels, drove a double to left-center that tied it 6-all.

After an intentional walk to Mike Trout loaded the bases, Pujols singled to deep center field for his third RBI of the night.

Red Sox 6, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Mookie Betts homered and drove in two runs, Jackie Bradley Jr. also went deep and Boston beat St. Louis in the opener of a two-game interleague series.

Bradley had two of Boston's six hits, and starter Eduardo Rodriguez (2-1) allowed three runs and five hits over six innings. Rodriguez walked two, struck out five and threw a season-high 110 pitches.

St. Louis made three errors and lost for just the second time in 10 games. Lance Lynn (4-2) gave up four runs, two earned, and three hits in six innings, striking out four and walking one.

Craig Kimbrel pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save in 13 chances.

Yankees 7, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Gary Sanchez hit a three-run homer, Chris Carter added a two-run shot and CC Sabathia got back on track as New York rolled over Kansas City.

Pitching on six days' rest, Sabathia (3-2) went 6 2/3 shutout innings to win for the first time since April 15.

Sanchez drilled an 0-1 pitch from Jason Hammel (1-5) to center field with nobody out in the third, and Carter pounded a 1-1 pitch to almost the same place with two down in the fourth.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt homered for the fourth time in six games and scored the tiebreaking run on Brandon Crawford's single in the sixth, lifting San Francisco to its fifth straight win.

Buster Posey added two hits and Ty Blach (1-2) pitched seven innings, spoiling Dodgers starter Rich Hill's return from the disabled list. Blach allowed one run, five hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

San Francisco improved to 5-1 on its homestand after a sluggish nine-game road trip when manager Bruce Bochy's ballclub won only three games.

Hunter Strickland retired three batters and Derek Law pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 4

In Phoenix, Yasmany Tomas homered against reeling New York again and Zack Greinke (5-2) pitched Arizona to a victory.

Tomas has gone deep in five consecutive meetings with the Mets, who matched a season high with their sixth straight loss.

Tommy Milone (1-1) allowed five runs in 5 2/3 innings. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Rays 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Corey Dickerson hit two of Tampa Bay's season-high five home runs in a victory over Cleveland.

Dickerson hit solo home runs in the third and fifth off Danny Salazar (2-4). Colby Rasmus and Derek Norris also hit solo shots off Cleveland's starter while Tim Beckham hit a two-run homer off Shawn Armstrong.

Jake Odorizzi (3-2) allowed four runs in six innings. Alex Colome pitched out of a ninth-inning jam for his 10th save.

Athletics 9, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Matt Joyce hit a two-run homer and Mark Canha added a three-run shot in a five-run ninth inning that rallied Oakland over Seattle.

Oakland squandered a 4-1 lead thanks to a key two-run error in the seventh and Kyle Seager's solo home run in the eighth that gave Seattle a 5-4 lead. But with a struggling Edwin Diaz removed from the closer role earlier in the day, Steve Cishek was asked to get the final three outs for the Mariners in just his second appearance of the season.

Cishek (0-1) was unable to finish the job, giving up a leadoff single to Rajai Davis and watching Joyce hit his fifth homer of the year to give Oakland the lead. Mark Rzepczynski took over and allowed Canha's first homer on a 3-2 pitch.

Ryan Madson (1-3) got the win despite giving up Seager's homer.

Braves 9, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Dansby Swanson hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning, Freddie Freeman also had a two-run shot and Atlanta beat Toronto, sweeping their two-game series.

Swanson snapped a 5-all tie with a leadoff drive to center off Danny Barnes (0-1).

Freeman hit his NL-leading 14th home run, matching Yankees slugger Aaron Judge for most in the majors. Jose Ramirez (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win.

Brewers 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Eric Sogard had a career-high four hits and drove in a run, and Jimmy Nelson struck out eight in six-plus innings and hit an RBI single to help Milwaukee beat San Diego.

Nelson (2-2) gave up two runs and seven hits, with one walk. Clatyon Richard (2-5) lost his third straight decision.

Sharapova's French 'ban' raises question

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

AP
Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns the ball to Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, of Croatia, during the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

The folks who run the sport of tennis do not have a hard-and-fast rule that would apply to Maria Sharapova and others in her shoes, something along the lines of: When returning from a drug suspension with a ranking too low to earn access to tournaments, a player is (or is not) entitled to wild-card entries.

The way things are now, it is up to each individual tournament to elect whether to invite players under such circumstances. So Sharapova will not compete at the French Open after that country's tennis federation announced Tuesday it opted not to allow the two-time champion into the field because of her recently concluded 15-month doping ban.

Many figured Sharapova would be permitted to play in Paris—in the qualifying rounds, at the very least, if not in the main draw, which starts May 28.

She is, after all, the owner of a total of five major titles, a former No. 1-ranked player and one of the world's most recognizable athletes. And she did, after all, return to the WTA tour last month; she tested positive for the newly banned drug meldonium at the Australian Open in January 2016.

"This suspension is over and she can take her path toward new success," French Tennis Federation president Bernard Giudicelli said. "But while there can be a wild card for return from injury, there can't be a wild card for return from doping."

That is a matter of opinion: As WTA CEO Steve Simon pointed out Tuesday, tournaments are allowed to award a wild-card invitation to any eligible player, and Sharapova is now eligible to compete.

"What I do not agree with is the basis put forward by the FFT for their decision with respect to Maria Sharapova. She has complied with the sanction imposed," Simon said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press. "There are no grounds for any member of the (tennis anti-doping program) to penalize any player beyond the sanctions set forth in the final decision resolving these matters."

The WTA is not contemplating any change to rules governing wild cards for players returning from a suspension.

As it stands, Sharapova's ranking is not high enough to gain direct access into top-tier events. The 30-year-old Russian was granted wild cards by three clay-court tournaments: in Stuttgart, Germany, in April, followed by Madrid last week, and then Rome, where she quit because of a left thigh injury during a match Tuesday.

Quite a day, huh?

Sharapova skipped a news conference afterward, issuing a statement about the injury but saying nothing about the French Open decision. The agency that represents her also declined comment.

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, Sharapova's Italian Open opponent, had plenty to say.

"The fact that there isn't a rule on people who failed doping tests, and whether or not they can get a wild card, whether or not they should, it's a very strange thing," Lucic-Baroni said, "because we are professional, and that should be in place."

She also made clear that she agreed with Giudicelli, calling the decision to deny the wild card "brave" because of Sharapova's popularity.

"If you want to do the right thing, you have to do the right thing," Lucic-Baroni said. "If you want to invest more money in doping tests, then you can't award a person who failed a doping test, no matter how you guys want to wrap it up and make it sound pretty."

Current men's No. 1 Andy Murray, who lost in Rome on Tuesday, was not in much of a mood to discuss the topic yet again.

He's made clear that he is not a fan of wild cards for players returning from doping suspensions and, like Lucic-Baroni, would like to see some sort of standardized approach to the issue.

"The French have decided what they want to do," Murray said, "and that's fine with me."

After initially getting a two-year suspension, Sharapova appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which reduced the ban, ruling she bore "less than significant fault" in the case and could not "be considered to be an intentional doper."

Her ranking rose enough during her return that she can participate in qualifying for the next major tournament, Wimbledon. As for the U.S. Open, U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Chris Widmaier said: "For us, it would be very premature to comment on our wild-card process."

The French federation's Giudicelli said he "felt some pressure" to let Sharapova play at Roland Garros. Ultimately, though, he said he determined, "It's my responsibility, it's my mission, to protect the game and protect the high standards of the game."

One day, perhaps it will be the International Tennis Federation, ATP and WTA that decide what, exactly, the standards are.

SIS

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made it to the finish line nearly 18 seconds faster than Zhang as Dickenson clocked in at 6:16.16 against the Agape student's 6:34.00. Zhang's teammate Anne Xiang (6:55.38) rounded out the Top 3. In the 3,000m, Dickenson was about a minute ahead of Zhang as the former registered 11:35.79 over the 12:37.70 of the latter. Zhang's sister Evon Zhang placed third after timing in at 14:54.82.

In other results, Kye Tamm contributed one gold medal to SIS' collection after winning the javelin throw. Tamm marked 16.10m to beat nine other participants, while Mt. Carmel School's Anna Lei Santos and MHS' Chenoa Bunts-Anderson completed the Top 3 after posting 15.40m and 14.30m, respectively.

In the two other field events, Santos reigned supreme in the shot put, while Cruz topped the discus throw. Santos' 10.13m in the shot put defeated the 9.05 of Tamm and 8.10 of Nicole Clamor, also from SIS. In the discus, Cruz submitted 19.52m to down Santos (19.32m), Bunts-Anderson (17.27m) and five others.

Meanwhile, SIS and Saipan Southern High School split the two relay races in the girls U18 division. Saipan's ruled the 4x100m after clocking in at 1:00.30, while MHS (1:00.63) and SIS (1:01.32) were ranked second and third. SIS then fought back in the 4x400m relay with Tania Tan, Anika Snyder, Malika MIyawaki, and Dickenson combining for 5:18.40 to edge Agape's 5:30.4.

Balance competition in boys U18

In the boys division, Saipan Southern prevailed in sprints races, Agape stood out in the middle distance, while Tinian triumphed in field events.

Trevan Quitugua gave the Manta Rays gold medals in the 60m, 100m, and 100m races after clocking in at 7:34seconds, 12:37, and 25.10. Tinian's Peter Ray Manglona (7.62 seconds) and Agape's Enfang Wang (7.86) made it to the Top 3 in the 60m; Agape's Teemo Wang (12.62) and Tinian's Peter Anore (12.91) in the 100m; and Teemo (25.50) and Manglona (26.43) in the 200m.

After falling short in the sprints, Agape placed first in three other run races with Caleb Wang winning the 400m (59.33 seconds), Henry Hu topping the 1,500m (5:28.26), and Chen Xi Zhao ruling the 3,000m (11:17.87).

For Tinian, Manglona delivered the gold in the 800m (2:19.22), while Michael Naputi swept the field events—javelin (29.50m), shot put (11.90m), and discus (24.39m). The Stallions also took the gold medal in the 4x100m relay (50.21), while Agape led in the 4x400m race (4:10.40).

OL'ACES

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Duenas paced Kagman with his 12 points.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI's guns were loaded in the second half en route to a 17-point winning margin.

The second half of last Monday's tiff began with the opposing teams in a deadlock before the 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI's better shooting helped the squad pull away. Joshua Chavez led the breakaway, scoring 12 of his 14 points in that period, while Jerome Malasarte and Ronald Bernardo chipped in 6 points apiece.

Malasarte ended up top-scoring for the 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI with his 18 markers, while Henry Aguon had 12 on a losing effort for the Natibu Warriors.

Monday Game

Sonics XVIII/PHI 56 – Malasarte 18, Chavez 14, Bernardo 6, Aque 4, Bautista 4, Manansala 4, Paragados 2, Muna 2, Ejercito 2.

Natibu Warriors 39 – H. Aguon 12, M. Aguon 6, Kainoa 6, Fejeran 4, Garde 2, Torres 2, Omar 2, Malwelbug 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-27, 56-39.

Wednesday Game

Ol'Aces 51 – Blake 10, Sablan 8, Castro 8, Onopwy 5, Siech 4, Aiferson 4, Kabiriel 4, Manglona 2, Ngirarois 2, Bondoc 2, Santos 2.

Kagman 43 – Duenas 12, Ogumoro 8, Quitugua 8, Naputi 4, Agulto 4, Villagomez 2, Fabia 2, Babauta 2, Fitial 1.

Scoring by halves: 35-24, 51-43.

CAROL

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set victory against No. 2 seed Katya Townsend of the U.S., 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-4.

With her 20 points in last week's tournament, Lee's total in singles is now at 125, as she also gained 20 points in the Mediterranée Avenir held early this month. The 15-year-old player advanced to the Round 32 of the Grade 1 event. Adding her 75 in doubles, Lee now has combined ranking points of 143.75.

She could earn more, as she is still in contention in the doubles events of her third and last tournament in Morocco this year.

Lee is in the quarterfinals of the doubles of the Grade 4 event after teaming up with American Skyler Marie Grishuk in beating Algeria's Houria Boukholda and Morocco's Yasmine Kabbaj, 6-2, 6-2, last Tuesday in the RUC Tennis Junior Open at the Tennis Clos de l'aviation Route d'El Jadida in Casablanca.

Lee and Grishuk are the No. 1 seeds in the 16-team field and were scheduled to duel Amami Banks of Great Britain and Lynda Benkaddour of Algeria for one of the two semis berths at the top half of the draw.

The quarterfinal game was personal for Lee as she would like to avenge her loss to Banks in the opening round of the singles play. Banks pulled off an upset against the No. 4 seed Lee last Monday, 6-2, 6-2. Banks and Benkaddour, whom Lee defeated in Round 2 of the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017, got a second crack at the CNMI player and Grishuk after winning over Morocco's Arwa Boussayri and Sara Rakim, 6-3, 6-1.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	13	.639	—
Baltimore	23	14	.622	½
Boston	20	18	.526	4
Tampa Bay	20	22	.476	6
Toronto	17	23	.425	8

Central Division

Minnesota	19	16	.543	—
Cleveland	20	18	.526	½
Detroit	18	19	.486	2
Chicago	17	20	.459	3
Kansas City	16	22	.421	4½

West Division

Houston	28	12	.700	—
Los Angeles	21	21	.500	8
Texas	20	20	.500	8
Seattle	18	22	.450	10
Oakland	17	22	.436	10½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	25	13	.658	—
New York	16	22	.421	9
Atlanta	15	21	.417	9
Philadelphia	14	22	.389	10
Miami	14	24	.368	11

Central Division

St. Louis	21	16	.568	—
Milwaukee	22	18	.550	½
Cincinnati	19	19	.500	2½
Chicago	19	19	.500	2½
Pittsburgh	16	23	.410	6

West Division

Colorado	25	15	.625	—
Arizona	23	18	.561	2½
Los Angeles	22	18	.550	3
San Francisco	17	24	.415	8½
San Diego	15	26	.366	10½]

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners in the U7's 400m race head out to the course during the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Friday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

A Tinian Elementary School runner keeps her focus as she nears the finish line of the 200m race.

Saipan International School's Beatrice Gross heads to the finish line of the 200m race.

Runners in the U9 make a turn during the 400m race.

Two U9 runners are a few meters away from completing the 200m sprint.

A coach watches his runner about to cross the finish line of the 200m race.

A young runner keeps a steady pace in the 200m race.

Spectators watch a close race to the finish line in the boys U9's 200m race.

Warriors trounce Spurs without Leonard for 2-0 lead

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

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Carol climbs up in world rankings

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here in file photo making a backhand return in an ITF Juniors ranking event on Saipan last year, is still in Morocco, competing in her third tournament in the North African country this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is on track of reaching the Top 300 in the world rankings after moving six notches up following her quarterfinal stint in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017 last week in Morocco.

Lee is now ranked No. 330—her highest—climbing the latter 23 notches after joining two high-level tournaments under the ITF Junior Circuit this month. She gained additional 20 points in the Grade 3 ITF/CAT North African Circuit for winning two matches in the singles event and making it to the quarterfinals.

In the Round of 8, the CNMI bet was pitted against the No. 1 seed Sina Zuger of Switzerland. Lee went on to stun Zuger in the opening set, 6-4, before the latter avoided an upset by slipping past the Commonwealth junior player in the last two, 6-4, 7-5. The Swiss eventually took the singles crown after another three-

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Ol'Aces, 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI topped their respective opponents in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League this week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics XVIII/PHI routed the Natibu Warriors last Monday, 56-39, while the Ol'Aces outclassed the Kagman Rollers in last Wednesday's match, 51-43.

The Ol'Aces built enough cushion in the first half to thwart Kagman's repeated comeback bids in the final 20 minutes of play.

Greg Sablan, Jeff Castro, and Dean Blake combined for 18 points in the opening half to give the Ol'Aces a 35-24 lead at the break. When the game resumed, Kagman behind Aaron Ogumoro, Jelbert Quitugua, and Patrick Duenas made a little headway to trim the deficit to as low as 3 points midway in the second half. However, the Ol'Aces hung tough and kept their safe distance the rest of the way with Sablan and Castro providing the needed baskets for the winning team and Aiferson Atan putting the finishing touches in their victory after scoring the squad's last 4 points.

Blake led the Ol'Aces with his 10 points and four of his teammates combined for 29 markers.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' Jeff Castro drives and draws a foul on Kagman Rollers' Aaron Ogumoro during the second half of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Champion of the 60m run Mauii Doculan of Saipan International School is flanked by runner-up Sophia Cruz, left, of Tinian Junior and Senior High School, and third placer Pinyarat Shankweiller of Marianas High School during the awards ceremony for the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

SIS stands out in girls U18

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School won seven of the 11 individual events in the girls U18 division of the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held last week at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

The Lady Geckos nearly swept the seven running events as Mauii Doculan and Isabel Dickenson took turns in handing SIS first place finishes in the sprint and middle distance races. Dickenson topped the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m runs, while Doculan prevailed in the 60m and 100m events. SIS did not compete in the 200m run, which Agape Christian School's Amelia Yu (31.87 seconds) ruled.

In the first run of the day—the 60m—Doculan posted 8.82 seconds to beat Tinian Junior and Senior High School's Sophia Cruz (8.95 seconds), Marianas High School's Pinyarat Shankweiler (9.03 seconds), and five other runners.

The SIS sprinter then defeated the same foes in the 100m run held last Saturday after clocking in 14.48 seconds. Cruz and Shankweiller registered 14.73 seconds and 15.02 seconds, respectively, to join Doculan in the podium.

In the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m, Dickenson prevailed against ACS, MHS, and Tinian runners. Her 1:10.19 in the 400m was way ahead of the 1:15.44 and 1:15.50 of Agape's Ella Zhang and Cruz, while Dickenson also had a big lead in the 800m after recording 2:47.85 versus the 2:54.78 of Zhang and the 3:20.80 of Yu.

In the 1,500m, the SIS runner

See SIS on Page 26